Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-96-070 *10 April 1996*

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Russia: Assassination Attempt Against Chechen Military Chief Fails

AU1004084996 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Russia, April 10 (AFP) — Ten people were killed in an assassination attempt against Chechen separatist military chief Aslan Maskhadov, a rebel spokesman told AFP Wednesday.

Maskhadov was unhurt in the bomb attack in Tsotsin Yurt in eastern Chechnya Tuesday, spokesman Movladi Udugov told AFP.

Russia: Telephone Conversation Between Borovoy, Dudayev Published

MK0904122296 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 9 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Telephone interview with Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev by State Duma Deputy Konstantin Borovoy: "The First Interview With Dzhokhar Dudayev Since the Declaration of Peace" — 7 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS can decipher the transcripts of telephone conversations and make them public at least as skillfully as the Federal Security Service [FSB] — the only difference being that, unlike the special service, we do so only with the speakers' consent.

This conversation between Dzhokhar Dudayev and Konstantin Borovoy took place last Sunday [7 April] at 0130. It is clear from the contents of the conversation that no representatives of the Russian side have attempted to contact Dudayev since Yeltsin announced his peace plan — neither directly, nor through intermediaries, nor through Arab sheiks. There have not even been any attempts to find out what he thinks about Yeltsin's peace initiatives. The conversation we offer to your attention is the first contact by a representative of the Russian side with Dudayev that has taken place since the president announced his readiness to hold talks through middlemen.

The taped conversation begins with Dudayev's statement to the effect that the situation in Russia is utterly unstable and explosive. In his view, the cause of this instability is that power is rapidly changing hands in the country, passing (if it has not already passed) into the hands of the reds and the browns, who are interested in seeing the war continue. Dudayev mentions the names of the people of whom the executive and legislative authorities should be "purged," as he put it; for his part, he suggested that they be replaced by politicians capable of countering the threat posed by the reds and the browns. Interestingly, neither Yeltsin nor Grachev are mentioned among his "positive" or "negative" heroes. This time Dudayev singles out General Staff Chief Mikhail Kolesnikov as the chief strategist who has been drafting military plans and says that "the Russian armed forces and the power structures have overtly forsworn their loyalty to the president."

The general context of the conversation gives one every reason to suggest that Dudayev has changed his overall stance with regard to the Russian president. If a month ago he said that any step toward peace in Chechnya would benefit Yeltsin, while his victory is the last thing the Chechens need, now Dzhokhar Musayevich demonstrates a somewhat different view of things. His logic appears to be as follows: Yeltsin ordered a cease-fire and expressed his readiness to hold talks with Dudayev. This is good. But the military has not obeyed the order and continues to fire. Meanwhile, the commission that is supposed to be in charge of the talks has announced through its chairman, Emil Pain, that talks with Dudayev is the president's unilateral decision. For its part, the commission has not proposed that and, therefore, is in no rush to carry that out. And this is bad. This amounts to the sabotaging of the president's peace initiatives, so to speak.

In other words, currently Dudayev has taken up the popular Russian belief in a good czar surrounded by traitors, and this belief makes him accept the view of the most reasonable part of Russian society regarding the presidential election: We shall choose the lesser evil. Yeltsin is not the worst guy. The Communists would be more terrible.

[beginning of interview] [Dudayev] Unless urgent personnel changes are made, you will bring a terrible affliction upon yourselves. In Russia, a quiet coup has essentially already occurred, and during the election campaign it could result in a huge bloody showdown.

[Borovoy] What information do you have in that regard?

[Dudayev] There are quite obvious signs that you for some reason fail to notice. Some of them go even deeper, but I will not talk about them on the phone. But look for yourself: Pain says that Yeltsin made a decision on talks with Dudayev unilaterally. That is, his commission on the settlement does not appear to be bound by this obligation at all. Tikhomirov announced for all the world to hear that he is not intent on complying with the president's edicts, but that he is going to see this thing through. They continue to deliver air strikes against Chechen villages, but Deynekin announces that it is "Dudayev's" aircraft that have attacked Shalazhi and other population centers. This is a failure to abide by the orders of their commander in chief and a cynical attempt to ignore them.

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[Borovoy] What is currently the situation at the front?

[Dudayev] The Russian troops have mounted massed attacks on all fronts. But they have not succeeded anywhere yet. In Goyskoye they have lost many men. In the Vedeno district two battalions are completely encircled, and they have no way out as yet.

[Borovoy] And have there been any bombardments today?

[Dudayev] Of course, there have. Currently on the Goyskoye axis, for instance. Now, two minutes will pass and they will resume the bombing. You might even hear it.

They deliver air strikes and say that these are "Dudayev's" aircraft. By the same token, they can similarly deliver a strike at a Russian village and say that this was done by the Dudayevites. A few provocations of this sort — and the peace talks will be derailed. According to our data, there is already a plan of provocations. Yeltsin's opponents will try to thwart the talks and to continue the war so as to discredit the authorities and provoke the armed forces into forswearing loyalty. And no one will be able to stop them. At present, for instance, troop operations continue despite the presidential edict. General Prosecutor Skuratov is not fulfilling his supervisory functions, but, on the contrary, provokes a heightening of tensions.

All these people have long sided with the "reds." Yeltsin's entourage — in my view, they have already been standing on the "red" side for a long time now and are waiting for their hour to strike. The "reds" are not communists. Russia's last communist died with the part of Gubanov in the movie "The Communist." There are no more communists in Russia. There are only petty thieves, looters, and vultures, whatever clothing they might try to don.

[Borovoy] Perhaps it would now be worthwhile to start talks right away so as somehow to neutralize or, on the contrary, to accelerate the actions of the provocateurs. Then they will start making mistakes, and the talks will help somehow to expose these terrible intentions.

[Dudayev] We might as well not conduct these talks at all. The problem is not with us. I do not care whether the talks are held at all. I do not care about any middlemen. We do not even need middlemen here. The talks can be held directly and everything can be straightened out within half an hour. The issue is not talks, but the situation that is coming about in Russia.

[Borovoy] Okay, if the talks are possible, how can they best be held?

[Dudayev] You'd best push your way through to Yeltsin and talk to him. Judging by his statements and the way they are being implemented, one gains the impression that he is absolutely helpless now. One ought somehow to recommend to him what is to be done and at the same time to start talks with a person from his entourage who can be trusted. And there is no need to send overseas maharajas here. They will not help, because they have no power behind them that could force the troops to implement agreed decisions.

[Borovoy] So you think that the talks can be held by any person provided he is interested in keeping them on track and represents Yeltsin?

[Dudayev] Yes, sir.

[Borovoy] Yavlinskiy has told me that he could take part in the talks as a middleman. What is your attitude to his candidacy?

[Dudayev] I have no objections if Yavlinskiy is authorized by the president to carry out intermediary services so that the talks can be conducted. And it would also be very desirable for someone of the military — preferably General Gromov — to receive the president's authorization to study the situation on the ground and to submit an objective report on the military situation. His word would be weighty and impartial.

[Borovoy] In other words, you would like the commission on the negotiations to be made up of professional and impartial people and you do not trust very much the groups that have already been created for this purpose because they, in your view, are not interested in holding talks?

[Dudayev] You will see that their efforts will be aimed at aggravating the crisis, not resolving it, and also at paving the way for the reds and the browns to come to power. What we need here are untainted people who are independent of the current authorities. Such as Yavlinskiy or Gromov.

[Borovoy] Mr. Guldiman [as transliterated from Russian], the OSCE representative in Groznyy, asked me to tell you that he is very pleased with the emerging narrowing of differences and that he is currently seeking a meeting with you.

[Dudayev] I have read his latest report: both Guldiman and the OSCE are very far from a correct assessment of the nature of this war and its scale. Until he has defined for himself what a war is, the rules of war, assessments of the actions of the aggressor and the defending side, and the lopsided size and scale of the crimes, he simply cannot be of any help. He equates both parties to the conflict, puts them on a par, and thus

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provokes an increase in the scale of Russian aggression on this territory.

[Borovoy] Guldiman made a very harsh statement during the assault on Sernovodsk...

[Dudayev] His harsh statement on Sernovodsk brought about an even greater outburst of sadism in Samashki and a physical wiping out of entire villages on a mass scale.

[Borovoy] But such statements internationalize the Chechen problem, help it emerge on the international scene — and this is something in which you must above all be interested.

[Dudayev] No, Konstantin Natanovich, we are not interested in being killed here like guinea pigs or in seeing the scale of brutality to which we have been subjected be equated with our minor infractions. We are not interested in such activity of his whatsoever.

[Borovoy] You should meet him, Dzhokhar Musayevich, believe me, this will not harm your cause.

[Dudayev] Well, we will study their line of conduct, how they behave. It cannot be ruled out that they may take part in the talks if they embark on the path of law. But until then we will keep them at arm's length.

[Borovoy] As for the sequence of actions in the peace plan, Valeriya Ilinichna Novodvorskaya asked me to convey to you the following: She thinks that a withdrawal of troops should be the first priority, but that the questions of elections and a referendum should be decoupled. That is, a referendum on Chechen independence should be called after the elections have been held in Russia.

[Dudayev] These are details that are marginal for us. Most important is to uphold the principle of resolving the conflict without residual effects. The first condition of this principle is that the Russian side forswear the use of force. Furthermore, its implementation should be guaranteed by the international community. Should Russia resort to the use of force, similar measures should be taken against it by the world community. There can be no other guarantees. Russia cannot be trusted. As for the rest — elections, a referendum — you are welcome. We will even stay away from organizing and conducting them. We will invite an electoral commission from among representatives of other peoples.

[Borovoy] And is the troop pullout a mandatory precondition?

[Dudayev] It is mandatory. No elections, no political events can be held here in the presence of Russian bayonets. This will be physically impossible. After all the atrocities, outrages, and violence you cannot be sure a single minute that there will be no more violence on either side. We for our part guarantee that after the withdrawal of troops everything set forth by the international community with regard to human rights and freedoms will be respected. If we happen to be unable to ensure that, the Russian side should assist us. Sometimes, even by military force. But only at our request.

[Borovoy] After the withdrawal of troops conditions should be created to make peace among Chechens themselves. An amnesty for everyone who supported either side to the conflict so that there will be no causes for civil war.

[Dudayev] Naturally. If we guarantee rights and freedoms, we are obliged to start with that.

[Borovoy] You have said that there is a problem of war criminals. Are you ready to accept that this is Russia's, not Chechnya's, problem? Or, let's say, that of the international community, not Chechnya?

[Dudayev] If the world community guarantees that it undertakes to bring war criminals to justice according to international law, we can turn this problem over to them. If there is no such guarantee, you can rest assured that the war criminals will be tried by the court of the Chechen people and a just punishment will be meted out to them.

[Borovoy] At this stage you had rather not bring up this matter. It could considerably complicate the start of the talks.

[Dudayev] No problem. This threat should loom large over every criminal. The inevitability of punishment is the guarantee that the crime will not be repeated.

[Borovoy] Dzhokhar Musayevich, you want the gist of this conversation to be conveyed to Yeltsin. Does this mean that you do not count him among the war criminals?

[Dudayev] If I, personally, were to count Yeltsin among the war criminals in this massacre at all, I would put him last in line. There are so many criminals before Yeltsin...

[Borovoy] That is, he is your future partner in the talks, and you do not raise the question of his being a war criminal, do you?

[Dudayev] No, I do not.

[Borovoy] Our special services will have this conversation at their disposal, they are currently taping it. Yet, I should probably pass it formally to Yeltsin, shouldn't I?

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[Dudayev] Everything should be passed to Yeltsin.

Russia: Dudayev 'Has Not Received Any Peace Plan' From Yeltsin

BR0904152396 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 9 Apr 96 p A12

[Report on interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by Disa Hastad "in a village in southern Chechnya" on the night of 7-8 April: "Dudayev Wants To Meet Yeltsin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chechnya — "A swift peace could be achieved in Chechnya if I myself were allowed to negotiate with Russian President Boris Yeltsin." So said Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev in an interview in his secret hiding place in a village in southern Chechnya.

Dudayev considers that a peace agreement negotiated through mediators is not worth much. For a mediator can never have any guarantee that Russia will meet its commitments.

It was a somewhat grayer Dudayev, who no longer looks like an operetta hero, who met us.

Where he is hiding is secret, but the Russian attempts to smoke out terrorists by bombing civilian villages are more about frightening the population that eliminating Dudayev. Throughout Easter Day [7 April] they were bombing; during our night conversation with Dudayev shooting was also heard and later artillery not that far away.

War as Before

Thus the war is going on as before despite the cease-fire agreement and assurances from President Boris Yeltsin that things are "completely calm" in Chechnya.

Dudayev justifies his skepticism toward peace negotiations with the fact that Russia in his view is not a democracy, but is already being controlled by communist and fascist forces.

"We consider that it is a matter of indifference who becomes president in Russia," he replied in response to DAGENS NYHETER's question about whether communist candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov would be better.

"In Russia a silent coup has already taken place. The country will now be ruled by communist and fascist forces. President Yeltsin no longer controls the real power structures — namely, the army.

"He issues decrees which no one carries out or even has a thought of carrying out. In this situation there could easily be a civil war. At present it is innocent Chechen blood that it being shed. This is happening in a war in which Russia is not following any accepted rules and is using banned arms," Dudayev said.

Rapid Solution

Nevertheless he considers that peace could be achieved in half an hour if the sides sat down at the negotiating table. But then it would have to be Dudayev himself who negotiated with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Although he added that Russia would only demand that the Chechens renounced their demands and this would put him in a difficult position.

"There were a handful of democrats who protested against the war. They are the same people who with Gorbachev at their head meant that the rule of law and democracy prevailed in Russia for a while. If those who now have influence over President Yeltsin could be removed and human rights champion Sergey Kovalev were allowed to organize a real election — then there could be hope for Russia," Dudayev said.

"Russia will never be able to conquer Chechnya," Dudayev said. "The Chechens have something that Russia does not have: a faith and spiritual strength which lifts them. The war will therefore last for ever and the Chechens will never give in voluntarily."

He is deeply disappointed with the Western world:

"The countries of the West help no one; they only help nations to drown. But the West will soon have the responsibility for Russia. After all, you yourselves have allowed Russia to become a full member of the Council of Europe," he said, sounding as if he were accusing those of us present from France, the United States, Britain, and Sweden for this:

"The West is coming together in an alliance of old empires. The West is promoting group egoism — namely, themselves. That is what Britain and France and the United States are doing, but also the Netherlands and Sweden.

"But soon your punishment will come. Islam will cut itself off from you. We will build a high Wall of China and keep ourselves to ourselves. For everything evil comes from the West: cancer, tuberculosis, AIDS, and now most recently mad cow disease, yes, that is your punishment. And I say to you," Dudayev added, "that you in the West have reached such a mentality that you will perish if you do not have warm toilets, baths, and shampoo. Without these things you cannot live for more than three days and that is why we Chechens are stronger than you."

When my French colleague from a Catholic newspaper asked whether Dudayev cares about the Russians' and

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other minorities' rights, Dudayev said that such a question is not on the agenda. The minorities are not and will never be a problem.

But he added that not even the Russians in the region have betrayed their Chechen neighbors when they have been taken into the interrogation facilities, so-called filtration camps, which the Russian Army uses to eradicate the Chechen resistance movement.

As we leave the rumblings of cannon can be heard. Do the Russians who are shooting at random know that Dudayev is very close to them in the darkness of night?

[Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 9 Apr 96 carries on page 9 the same Disa Hastad interview with Dudayev with the following variant introduction:

"Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has not received any peace plan from the Russian president and does not believe that peace can be achieved through negotiations by a mediator. He said this in an interview with HUFVUDSTADSBLADET and a number of other journalists on the night of Easter Sunday."]

Russia: Duma To Discuss Chechnya; Deputy Calls Yeltsin Plan 'Bluff'

LD1004104696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax) — A total of 232 Russian Duma deputies with one abstention supported Independent deputy Viktor Kurochkin's proposal to discuss Wednesday [10 April] a project for a Duma statement on the latest events in Chechnya.

President Boris Yeltsin's peace plan, Kurochkin said, "turned out to be a bluff, and the war in the region continues."

The issue will be debated at the evening session, after speaker Gennadiy Seleznev returns from a meeting of the government commission headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on settling the Chechen conflict.

Russia: Official Claims Security Council Not To Discuss Chechnya

MK1004103796 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Alan Kasayev under the "Authority" rubric: "Security Council To Meet in Kremlin Today. Could This Be One of the Last Meetings of the President's Extra-Constitutional Consultative Body?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Misyuchenko, press secretary of the Russian Security Council, has told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that today's Security Council meeting does not plan to consider questions relating to Chechnya "in any way."

The Security Council was set up under Russian President Boris Yeltsin's edict of 5 May 1992. Simultaneously, Yuriy Skokov, who later refused to sign the draft edict on the special procedure for governing the country and lost his job in April 1993, was appointed its head. Currently, the functions of secretary are carried out by Oleg Lobov, one of President Yeltsin's closest associates. But Lobov has been sick for nearly three weeks now after undergoing heart surgery.

The Security Council's most famous decisions, which were subsequently formalized as presidential edicts, were the decision to introduce troops into Chechnya ("on bringing constitutional order onto the territory of the Chechen Republic") in November 1994, and also the decision to launch large-scale combat operations in late December of the same year.

For quite a long time the Security Council has been fiercely criticized by President Yeltsin's opponents, both on the left and the right. The criticism was particularly fierce from autumn 1994 to winter 1995, when the question of the responsibility of forces and persons involved in making the decision to bring troops into Chechnya arose with utmost urgency. Then both the democrats and the Communists briefly joined forces in an attempt to expose those who started the Chechen war — the former, out of an implicit desire to deflect criticism from President Yeltsin by finding those responsible in his entourage; the latter, on the contrary, in an attempt to obtain evidence proving that the fatal decision was made directly by the president.

They both succeeded in their pursuits, or perhaps it was the other way around. The democrats saw for themselves that President Yeltsin may hold any of his close associates responsible for the Chechen crisis — or for any other area of state government for that matter. The Communists, for their part, obtained as a result of their investigatory experience the proof of something that has always been on the surface anyway; namely, that any failure can be blamed on anyone, the president included. It is these goings-on that revealed the Security Council's indispensable function of bearing collective responsibility for shortcomings in the key areas of government policy. All kinds of theories and leaks, which were started by Vladimir Shumeyko and Yuriy Kalmykov — Pavel Grachev and Ivan Rybkin also making their contribution — only served to definitively muddy the problem of personal responsibility and to replace it for a more or less protracted period of time by the responsibility of all; that is, irresponsibility.

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At the time — by last spring — it was already evident that heads would roll. But we had to wait a whole year to see this happen. In the run-up to the presidential election Boris Yeltsin has realized a few truths; namely: (a) that the Chechen war has deeper roots than he had always thought, and that it can be finished by more serious measures and over a longer period of time than has hitherto been believed; (b) a victory in the presidential election can only result from decisive, swift, and unconventional steps toward pacification in Chechnya; (c) in any case the entire responsibility will, in the end, be shouldered by one person, namely, the president. It is at that point that he made an important move that effectively cut off the Security Council from decisionmaking on most important problems. The president twice convened the Security Council to draw up a plan for a settlement in Chechnya, but he announced the plan itself without any references to the Council; furthermore, this plan was not even agreed upon with its members.

It is then that the new configuration of forces and methods began to take shape through which the incumbent president intends to act on the Chechen axis of his policy. Currently, it consists of Boris Yeltsin himself as the key figure in adopting, announcing, and realizing a new political line (the top of the pyramid); Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, as the head of the single commission on the comprehensive settlement of Chechnya-related problems (the middle part of the pyramid); and Emil Pain's group — the information analysis foundation of the new three-stage system. This blueprint has no place for the Security Council.

Evidently, a number of Security Council members are not pleased with their "membership without authority" and in this regard parallels between the current Security Council and the Communist Party's Politburo are hardly legitimate — a Politburo member of the Brezhnev era had a qualitatively different level of authority than a present-day Security Council member. In other words, members of the Russian leadership, wielding real military or political authority, do not gain extra weight when they are bound up by collective responsibility, but, on the contrary, lose whatever weight they have; hence, last year's revelations by Shumeyko and recent off-the-cuff remarks by Grachev in Groznyy. Therefore, hardly anyone among the current Security Council membership will be particularly upset if the functioning of this agency is suspended by the president "until a special decision" is made; that is, until the time comes again when it will be necessary to share responsibility with somebody.

In all likelihood, this time will arrive only after Boris Yeltsin's victory on 16 June, but maybe this will happen even earlier.

Russia: Contradictory Information Given on Fighting in Chechnya

LD0904215996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Report over video from Groznyy by correspondent Vladimir Polozhentsev — from the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The village of Goyskoye is still being controlled by the gunmen, a high-ranking official from the Defense Ministry told us today, but the federal forces are not engaging in active operations against them for the time being. At the same time, according to INTERFAX, the village sustained low-intensity shelling during the night of 8-9 April. It is difficult to interpret this phrase with any degree of precision: Either they replied to enemy fire or provoked the enemy to reveal its whereabouts. One thing is clear: Federal troops have not yet tried to storm the village, where up to 450 gunmen had dug in.

Contradictory information is coming from Vedeno, too. According to INTERFAX, it was taken by Russian troops yesterday. At the same time, the press center of the temporary joint forces in Chechnya categorically denied reports claiming that the federal forces were continuing combat operations in the area of the villages of Dargo and Vedeno. On 8 April, the press service's statement says, all the units and subunits remained at the places where they are stationed. Aviation and artillery were not used, and such information is a provocation aimed to discredit the armed forces.

The Russian Defense Ministry neither confirmed nor denied the capture of Vedeno. A duty officer at the information directorate told us by telephone that yesterday and today, troops were installing engineering equipment at their positions. He had the following to say about the situation in Chechnya:

[begin recording of unidentified officer] Having profited by a relative break, the illegal armed formations stepped up armed sorties against the temporary joint forces. The positions of federal troops were shelled near the villages of Vedeno, Khankala, and the main camp of a motor rifle brigade. [end recording]

[Polozhentsev] The duty officer said that the gunmen have become especially active in Groznyy. Over last night Russian road blocks and checkpoints were shelled 14 times. Some news agencies have reported that more than 400 Dudayevites still remain here. According to other sources, most gunmen have left Groznyy long ago

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and are now near Shali. Many journalists accredited in Chechnya have complained that the command of the joint forces has been deliberately barring the press and television from areas where combat operation, including the so-called clean ups are being carried out. Either the military are trying to spare the sensitivity of the media people, or they are hiding something. But anyway millions of Russians don't know the real picture of settling the Chechen situation.

Vladimir Polozhentsev for ORT. [video shows Groznyy scenes]

Russia: Statute on Chechnya Settlement Commission Published

MM1004095796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 6

["Statute on the Russian Federation State Commission for the Settlement of the Crisis in the Chechen Republic" — ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline; ratified by Russian Federation President's directive No. 161 of 4 April 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The Russian Federation State Commission for the Settlement of the Crisis in the Chechen Republic (hereinafter the Commission) has been set up with a view to coordinating the efforts of federal organs of power to normalize the situation in the Chechen Republic and to monitor the implementation of the program to settle the crisis in the Chechen Republic.

2. In its activity the Commission is guided by the Russian Federation Constitution, federal laws, other Russian Federation normative legal acts, and by this statute.

3. The Commission carries out its activity in conjunction with the Russian Federation Federal Assembly chambers, the plenipotentiary representatives of the Russian Federation president and government in the Chechen Republic, federal executive organs, and Chechen Republic organs of state power.

4. The Commission's main tasks are:

— to coordinate the efforts of federal organs of state power to normalize the situation in the Chechen Republic;

— to monitor the implementation of the program for settling the crisis in the Chechen Republic;

— to amend the stages of the program for settling the crisis in order to take account of the actual situation emerging in the Chechen Republic;

— to draw up and implement additional measures for settling the crisis in the Chechen Republic within the framework of the ratified presidential program;

— to provide information support for the president and the Russian Federation Federal Assembly on the progress in implementing the program for settling the crisis in the Chechen Republic.

5. The Commission's functions are:

— to provide general leadership and determine the priorities on questions of funding and material and technical support for restoration work and social and compensation payments;

— to implement measures to ensure effective intra-Chechen political dialogue and prepare the republic for legislative elections;

— to further demarcate powers between organs of state power in the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic;

— to conclude agreements between executive organs of state power in the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic in various spheres of activity;

— to adopt fundamental decisions linked to the withdrawal and redeployment of federal forces, the strengthening and activities of organs safeguarding law and order, and the struggle against terrorism;

— to monitor and coordinate lawmaking and normative legal activity on issues making up the part of the program for settling the crisis in the Chechen Republic;

— to monitor implementation of foreign policy initiatives linked to the settlement of the crisis in the Chechen Republic and the elaboration of agreed proposals to the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Federal Assembly on these issues;

— to cooperate with the mass media with a view to ensuring the most balanced coverage possible of events in the Chechen Republic;

— to draw up analytical material for the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Federal Assembly linked to the implementation of the program for settling the crisis in the Chechen Republic.

6. In order to perform the tasks entrusted to it, the Commission is empowered:

— to hear and receive under the established procedure the necessary information from state organs, as well as from enterprises, institutions, and organizations;

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— to set up under the established procedure provisional working groups to draw up proposals on certain problems;

— to hear representatives from federal organs of state power and Russian Federation components.

7. Overall leadership of the Commission is exercised by the chairman of the Russian Federation Government on instructions from the Russian Federation president.

8. The Commission's composition ratified by the Russian Federation president's directive includes representatives of the Russian Federation Government, as well as representatives of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly by agreement.

9. The leader of the Commission has a panel of experts to analyze and generalize information on the progress in implementing the program so as to provide systematic reports to the Russian Federation president and to draw up the necessary analytical material for Commission sessions.

10. Commission decisions promulgated in accordance with its powers are binding on the federal executive organs, Russian Federation component executive organs, and enterprises, institutions, and organizations taking part in the normalization of the political and socioeconomic situation in the Chechen Republic.

11. Organizational and technical support for the Commission is provided by the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

Russia: Composition of Chechnya Settlement Commission Ratified

MM1004092096 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 1

[Russian Federation President's directive No. 161, signed by President B. Yeltsin on 4 April 1996 under the general heading "Empowered To Solve Chechnya Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The composition of the Russian Federation State Commission for the Settlement of the Crisis in the Chechen Republic (appended) is hereby ratified.

2. The appended Statute on the Russian Federation State Commission for the Settlement of the Crisis in the Chechen Republic (Footnote) (Published on page 6) is hereby ratified.

3. This directive comes into force on the day it is signed.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[dated] 4 April 1996

No. 161

Composition of the Russian Federation State Commission for the Settlement of the Crisis in the Chechen Republic

V.S. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government (commission chairman);

Ye.S. Stroyev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council (by agreement);

G.N. Seleznev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma (by agreement);

V.V. Kadannikov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government (deputy chairman of the commission);

O.I. Lobov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council;

Yu.M. Baturin, aide to the Russian Federation president;

N.Ya. Fedosov, Russian Federation Government's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic;

M.I. Barsukov, director of the Russian Federation Federal Security Service;

N.M. Bezborodov, Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma deputy;

D.G. Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic;

V.Yu. Zorin, chairman of State Duma Committee for Nationalities Affairs;

V.A. Kovalev, Russian Federation minister of justice;

V.M. Kokov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council;

M.P. Kolesnikov, first deputy minister of defense and chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff;

A.S. Kotkov, Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma deputy;

A.S. Kulikov, Russian Federation minister of internal affairs;

M.M. Magomedov, chairman of the Republic of Dagestan State Council;

P.P. Marchenko, head of Stavropol Kray administration;

V.A. Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister for nationalities affairs and federal relations;

M.Sh. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan.

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CIS: Russia, Kazakhstan Cooperate Within CIS Air Defense System

MM0904153396 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin under the "Topical Theme" rubric: "The CIS: Joint Air Defense System in Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty — At the CIS heads of state meeting in Moscow at the start of the year Colonel General Viktor Prudnikov, commander in chief of Russia's Air Defense Troops and chairman of the Commonwealth States' Coordinating Committee for Air Defense Questions, delivered a report on the setting up of the CIS Joint Air Defense System at the end of 1995. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written about certain of its details. Let us try to look at it again from one of its "vantage points" — that of the Kazakhstan Defense Ministry Air Defense Command Post. That is to say, from the southeastern flank of the actual system, a system which still existed perfectly well in the USSR at the end of the eighties. During my long service I cannot recall a single instance of inspectors' showing up here to check the vigilance of the sentinels of the skies. And that instilled a sense of pride.

The personnel of any subunit, including an Air Defense subunit, experience quite a different sensation when they daily encounter worn-out, obsolete equipment which cannot be repaired for want of spare parts. And where there is no chance of it being replaced. There has been no proper intensive combat training for a long time. Meanwhile many subunits have already had several intakes of launch crews who have served their time without ever firing a live missile. Visits to the firing range have become an inordinately expensive pleasure.

Major General Anatoliy Vasimov, commander of the Kazakhstan Air Defense Troops, recounted to me the events which had happened at the command post that day. A considerable number of subunits were engaged in a joint training drill with Russian Air Defense Troops involving the exchange of information on the air situation in the border region and the reliable and complete transmission of this information along the vertical command and control axis of the Joint Air Defense System. The Moscow-Kazakhstan command structure's information channels functioned reliably. Such drills have been carried out several times.

Moreover, they have carried out work with operators via the networks which connect them with the similar neighboring Russian territorial post. Very close teamwork which enables the partners to provide backup for one another and increase their potential by pooling their efforts has been practiced. The air border "interface" between Russia and Kazakhstan in the region of the Altay Mountains, where until recently one side's responsibility for protecting the borders ended and the other's began, has essentially reverted to the former, pre-CIS common area of responsibility for air border security.

A more complex training exercise to intercept a simulated border intruder and force it to land at a designated spot was held in the same region last year. A Russian fighter simulated the "intruder." The interception in the skies above Kazakhstan was carried out by Kazakhstani pilots. The crews of Colonel Zhientay Sandybayev and Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Sevastyanov, both pilots and expert marksmen, successfully "pinned down" the "intruder" and forced it to land.

All combat training work has been continuously monitored by Russia's and Kazakhstan's electronic facilities and by the command structure of the higher-echelon organs of the two states' Air Defense and the CIS Joint Air Defense System Central Command Post in Moscow. Air Defense missile troops have also taken part in training. According to Vasimov, a similar training exercise was successfully carried out in the south of Kazakhstan, where Kazakhstan's and Uzbekistan's Air Defense assets took part in an operation involving an identified "intruder," collaborating simultaneously with the CIS Joint Air Defense System Central Command Post.

Military commanders have repeatedly drawn the attention of the CIS member-states' leadership to emerging problems. The obvious need for a legal basis, the formation of which is only just starting. Well-trained cadres (officers are studying in Russia) are essential. The level of training of enlisted and NCO personnel and warrant officers is low. The system of upgrading officers' knowledge and skill at command courses has been lost....

In the commander's opinion, the training system can be restored by setting up central and regional centers and courses both to train lower-rank specialist personnel and to upgrade command and engineering cadres. This, of course, will be under the umbrella of the Commonwealth states' Coordinating Committee for Air Defense Questions and will be funded on the proportional principle. So it should be possible to make servicemen's training an experience which is of a higher standard and of more mutual benefit.

In General Vasimov's opinion, it is time for the Coordinating Committee to hold a conference of leadership cadres of the branches of service with the participation of representatives of science and the defense industry. It is necessary to establish objectively the scope we have for equipping the troops, what we want, and what we can have in the immediate future.

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Apr

LD1004052996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0447 GMT 10 Apr 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Today's newspapers highlight a visit to Russia by Polish president Aleksandr Kwasniewski. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI says that "ominous forecasts on the eve of Kwasniewski's visit to Russia were not avoided. However, his first contacts on the Russian soil showed that these forecasts were not destined to come true. Before the visit the Polish president said that there was a possibility to turn friendship into the essence and contents of Russo-Polish relations. Better words can hardly be found. It is this process of transformation of our relations that is taking place in Moscow during these days," the newspaper said.

IZVESTIYA expresses the opinion that Poland wants to be closer to the West, but would not like to distance itself too much from the East. "I believe that Poland's Eastern policy should be no less active than its intention to integrate into European structures. Therefore, I have already had talks with the presidents of Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania and that is why I have come to Moscow," IZVESTIYA quoted Kwasniewski as saying during a luncheon with a group of Russian journalists.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article on its front page about workers' demands to tighten workers' control at enterprises for purposes of resolving the problem of timely payment of wages, in particular, in areas which have already received funds to repay budgetary debts. Supporting Boris Yeltsin as a candidate standing for presidency for a second term, the workers, apparently, have more faith in him, rather than in reports about funds remitted to regions, and ask to raise their powers in administering workers' control.

IZVESTIYA says that managers of Russia's 20 major airline companies will meet in conference on April 10. They are prepared to declare Russia "a zone economically unfavorable for regular air transportation." Despite a fantastic number of airline companies registered in Russia (over 400) around 80 per cent of cargoes are being transported by only 20 major companies. Nowadays, a stopover of a Russian plane in a Russian airport is ten times as expensive as in Istanbul. The prices for aviation fuel in Nizhnevartovsk — an oil development centre — have equalled the prices in effect in Frankfurt-am-Main where fuel is delivered from other countries. In the opinion of president of the Association of air transportation customers Yevgeniy Chibirev, these are the examples of an irrational and unpredictable economic policy.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA quoted Belarusian [First] Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Tsyapkala as saying that he admits a possibility that the pullout of Russian strategic nuclear weapons from Belarus might be suspended. This will happen if the Czech Republic and Hungary are admitted into NATO and if nuclear tactical missiles of the North Atlantic Alliance are deployed on their territories. In another article, the newspaper comments on the forthcoming parade of troops of the Moscow military garrison due on May 9 to celebrate the 51th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. The revival of the tradition to hold military parades is connected with numerous requests addressed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin which were voiced at a ceremony of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the victory last year. Then, the president promised that military parades would be held on Red Square in Moscow on May 9 every year.

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Russia: Spokesman Calls On N. Korea To Show 'Restraint'

LD0904131596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) - Moscow expressed concern on Tuesday over the situation on the Korean peninsula, saying North Korea damages the security system in the region.

"We assess the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to free itself from obligations to preserve the status of the demilitarized zone as a move aimed at dismantling the security system on the peninsula", Mikhail Demurin, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing.

Russia's standpoint is that although the truce agreement between Pyongyang and Seoul has expired, the sides should continue with the previous policies until new mutually acceptable mechanisms are developed which "would reflect the opinions and interests of both parties".

Demurin emphasized that it was necessary to look for political means of solving the problem and called "first and foremost" on Pyongyang to show restraint in order not to aggravate the situation.

According to the spokesman, Russia's earlier offer to hold an international conference on problems of the Korean peninsula remains in force.

A delegation of Russian officials headed by deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Ignatenko is to fly to North Korea on Tuesday to discuss bilateral cooperation and the problems of the Korean settlement in "a more concrete aspect".

Russia: Official Stresses No 'Automatic Involvement' in DPRK Issue

LD0904132596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 9 (Interfax) — Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov refrained from answering Interfax's question about Moscow's reaction to North Korea's possible request to give it military aid. "Don't let us resort to hypothetic suppositions," he said on Tuesday before his departure for Pyongyang.

Earlier Panov told Interfax that in 1993 Russia unilaterally nullified Article 1 of the Soviet-North Korean friendship agreement. The article provided for automatically involving Moscow in an armed conflict on Pyongyang's side in case of an aggression against North Korea.

"We declared that automatic involvement is out of the question, and that we shall decide in accordance with our internal procedures whether to take or not take part in the conflict on the side of North Korea if it is subjected to an unprovoked attack," Panov said.

North Korea's capital will host the first session of the intergovernmental Russian-North Korean commission on trade and economic cooperation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Russian delegation is led by Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Ignatenko. Panov himself will conduct political consultations with his North Korean counterpart Li In Gyu.

According to Panov, one of the topics to be discussed in Pyongyang will be the situation on the Korean Peninsula that emerged following North Korea's decision to renounce its commitment connected with the maintenance of a demilitarized zone there.

The situation in the area may develop into armed incidents, Panov said. "But we hope that things will not go that far," he pointed out.

Moscow believes, Panov said, that "the best way out" is to convene an international conference on confidence-building measures on the Korean Peninsula. During its consultations in Pyongyang the Russian side hopes to clarify North Korea's attitude to this proposal, the diplomat said.

In comments on Seoul's intention to request the U.N. security Council to consider developments on the Korean Peninsula urgently Panov said "any state has the right to do so, the more so as South Korea is a member of the Security Council now."

Nevertheless the diplomat pointed out that Russia will determine its attitude to this question "after consultations."

Russia: Delegation to DPRK To Discuss Tension on Peninsula

LD1004072896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0629 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Ivan Zakharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian delegation led by Vice-premier Vitaliy Ignatenko arrived in North Korea on Wednesday for the first meeting of the bilateral intergovernment commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Ways of stepping up economic contacts and possibilities of tackling stockpiled problems will be discussed at talks with North Korean Vice-premier Hong Song-Nam

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[name and title as received] and at plenary meetings of Russian and North Korean experts.

The delegation will visit several enterprises built with technical assistance of the former Soviet Union and will study data on the Najin-Songbong free trade and economic zone being established by North Korea near the border with the Russian Far East.

A protocol will be signed on the results of the intergovernmental meeting.

According to estimates of Russian experts, bilateral trade between Russia and North Korea dropped by 23 percent in 1995 as against the previous year, topping slightly 100 million U.S. dollars with the 90-million-dollar foreign trade deficit of the North Korean side.

Cooperation is aggravated by Pyongyang's debts to Russia, amounting to 3.3 billion hard currency roubles.

The two sides will hold political consultations which will be attended by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov. It is expected that the sides will discuss aggravation of tension in the Demilitarised Zone between North and South Koreas and Russia's proposals on ensuring security on the Korean Peninsula.

Russia: Ignatenko Cited on Developments in Korea

MM1004102396 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 3

["Observer's Opinion" article by Boris Kashtanov: "Korean Vesuvius Has Awoken"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation on the Korean Peninsula has taken a drastic and unexpected turn for the worse. Reports from Pyongyang and Seoul are reminiscent of the days in the first half of June 1950, when the verbal tussle between the two capitals ultimately turned into a bloody war which visited countless disasters and suffering on the Korean people. And today there is enough strong language on both sides — North and South — and it is uttered by both the military and high-ranking politicians.

The Korean People's Army's [KPA] mission in Panmunjom said in a statement for the press 29 March that the KPA "will take appropriate measures to protect itself in view of the fact that military preparations are clearly afoot south of the military demarcation line which could take place only on the eve of war."

The DPRK accuses South Korea of violating the truce agreement and of having moved a large quantity of tanks and cannon of various sizes plus major contingents of ground troops into the demilitarized zone [DMZ]. The introduction of heavy weapons into this zone, like the presence there of more than 1,000 military personnel, is banned by the agreement. In this context the KPA mission in Panmunjom stated that it was impossible to maintain the DMZ's status any longer and that it "will relinquish its commitments under the truce agreement relating to the maintenance and governance of the DMZ."

Seoul, as keen-eyed observers have noted, has not confirmed (which would seem strange) the North Korean side's charges regarding the buildup of South Korean Armed Forces in the area of the 38th Parallel, but it has not denied them either. Moreover, South Korea has asked the United States for AWACS aircraft because of the increased tension on the peninsula.

These are a few of the events which have occurred in recent days and which have caused serious alarm in the world. After 42 years of relative calm, the Korean Vesuvius has again started to emit smoke and could, it seems, start to speak again. Such a turn of events would be not just undesirable but could have catastrophic consequences. The situation also looks particularly delicate because President Clinton is scheduled to visit Seoul 16 April. And history reminds us how events developed during that memorable June of 1950 precisely after the visit to South Korea by the then U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. And, although in this case the historical parallels are out of place and the U.S. President is hardly going to peer at the fortifications on the North Korean side through binoculars, as Dulles did at the time, I would wish there were fewer such coincidences.

Russia's stance regarding the development of events on the Korean Peninsula was briefly formulated by Russian Vice Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko yesterday, just before the departure of the delegation he heads for Pyongyang to take part in the first session of the intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Russia and the DPRK. Bilateral political consultations will also be held in Pyongyang, in which Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Panov will take part for the Russian side. Just before taking off Ignatenko said that, as Moscow sees it, the old security system on the Korean Peninsula has to be observed until a new one is created and that Russia also advocates holding a multilateral international conference on security problems in the region.

Such an approach seems sensible and level-headed, but there is a blot on the landscape: No one today can say when and how this new security system will be created — this question has been in the air for a long time now, and there is no whiff of a solution.

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Russia: Commentary: No Russian 'Military Support' to DPRK

SK0904152896 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Commentary by Valery Surichev from the "Today's World" program; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The DPRK has recently decided to no longer fulfill its mission under the Armistice Agreement, which has been in effect since July 1953. This has further aggravated relations of confrontation between North and South Korea.

According to the Armistice Agreement, which ended the war between the same people 43 years ago, neither the North nor the South is allowed to bring more than 35 soldiers into the DMZ.

Nevertheless, observers have reported that the DPRK recently brought 200 heavily-armed soldiers into the DMZ.

Such a decision by Pyongyang and acts following this evoked the suspicions of neighboring countries. For example, Japanese Foreign Minister Ikeda Yukihiko expressed his suspicions.

According to the views of ROK analysts, the DPRK is pursuing political aims, not a military purpose. They observe that through this decision, the DPRK is attempting to force the United States to hold direct dialogue with the DPRK, pressuring the United States.

According to reports from Seoul, the ROK leadership is still showing self-restraint. Only military units positioned in the areas along the demarcation line have assumed a full alert posture.

The UN Forces Command in the ROK recognizes that although Pyongyang's move violates the Armistice Agreement, such a move cannot be subject to any suspicion [uiguui taesang] and thus it is not necessary to establish a security posture.

Jim Cones, official representative of the United Nations, has pointed out that no change was seen in the guard posture of the DPRK Army and ROK Army in areas along the demarcation line.

Analysts in Moscow have stressed that Pyongyang may have made such a decision in a bid to apply a certain amount of political pressure to the United States. However, this is a very dangerous move.

The Russian Foreign Ministry recognizes that if Pyongyang brings about a clash with Seoul and Washington, it will face a military collapse.

According to Russian diplomats, Russian military support to the DPRK if such a clash breaks out has not been discussed even theoretically. Russia has appealed to the DPRK to display self-restraint more than once or twice.

Moscow recognizes that the Armistice Agreement should be observed until a new organization is formed to ensure security on the peninsula.

When Russian Vice Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov visits the DPRK from 10 to 12 April, issues surrounding the peninsula will be discussed.

Russia: Zyuganov Sees Mutual Support Between Yeltsin, Clinton

LD0904181696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 9 Apr 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 9 (Interfax) - Communist presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov is certain that President Yeltsin and President Clinton have agreed on mutual support in each other's election campaigns in Russia and the United States. He made a statement to that effect at a news conference following his meeting with the visiting Polish president Alexander Kwasniewski.

Zyuganov made it quite clear that he had received the information about the telephone conversations between the Russian and American presidents not from the newspapers or other mass media, but from his own reliable sources.

Zyuganov emphatically opposed plans by Poland and some other East European countries to join NATO. He said that would aggravate the situation in Europe and restore blocs, "an obstruction that must be overcome."

Zyuganov said Russian Communists were working on several ways of preventing NATO's explanation [as received] to the East, such as the simultaneous establishment of security guarantees for the East European countries by NATO and Moscow.

The Russian Communist Party leader believes that Poland in Eastern Europe might play a role similar to that of France in the West of the continent.

Zyuganov said that he had discussed with Kwasniewski the social and political situation in Russia and Eastern Europe.

He believes that last year's election in Poland, in which Social Democrat Kwasniewski emerged the winner, was of great interest, in the first place from the standpoint of the "normal transition of power."

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Russia: Dan Quayle Arrives in Moscow for Talks on NATO Expansion

LD0904181896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Arseniy Mironov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — Former US vice-president Dan Quayle came on a four day visit to Moscow to discuss NATO's eastward expansion with Russia's high-ranking officials and take part in a Russian-American conference of political analysts.

"I have come here to get a better feeling of Russia's current problems and to show my Moscow colleagues the lively interest which Americans take in the changes happening in your country," Quayle told Tass on Tuesday.

He intends to meet with Russia's Foreign minister Yevgeniy Primakov, Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev and chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev.

According to Quayle, his discussions with Russian experts at a meeting of political analysts in the Russian Academy of Sciences on Tuesday focused on relations between Russia and the West in connection with NATO's plans to expand eastwards.

Sergey Rogov, the Director of the Institute of the USA and Canada, said at the meeting that "the negative attitude towards NATO expansion is the only issue on which all political forces in Russia are united".

Addressing the participants of the meeting Quayle stated that "Russia remains and will ever be a great power and the United States will have to build its relations with it accordingly."

Referring to Chechnya, the former vice-president stressed that he "hoped for a success of the peace plan of President (Boris) Yeltsin."

Russia: Foreign Trade Minister Attacks Handling of Chicken Conflict

LD0904134996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Interfax) - The actions of the Russian Agriculture and Food Ministry during the recent poultry import scandal may have threatened "all Russian exports to the United States," Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told Interfax Tuesday.

"Had Russia stopped importing American chicken legs, which make up as much as 20 percent of U.S. export to Russia, the American side would have immediately put up barriers to Russia's main exports to the U.S.," he said. "The losses could have been hundreds of millions of dollars," he said, adding that "before attempting to bar the import of Bush-legs, someone should have done some thinking."

Russians affectionately refer to American chicken legs after former U.S. President George Bush, who signed an order sending U.S. chicken to Russia as food aid.

"Complaints about product quality should be made to Russian importers buying the product, not foreign exporters," Davydov said. "We should have worked with the importers, demanded that they buy chicken legs which met sanitary standards, and if they failed to do this, not allowed their product through customs," he said.

"The government has one foreign economic policy and that is the one developed by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations," he said. "We can't have the Agriculture Ministry and the military-industrial complex coming up with their own policies."

"Sudden movements are not desirable in our foreign economic policy," he said. "Our policy should be constant and predictable." "We must not forget that exports make up over 18 percent of our GDP," he said, "and so any careless move by Moscow in relations with trading partners may lead to catastrophic consequences for exporters and seriously damage the country's economy as a whole."

Russia: Spokesman Praises U.S. Stance on Arms Controls Restrictions

LD0904154296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Interfax) — Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin described the decision of the United States to withdraw Russia from a list of countries subject to arms trade restrictions as "a move in the right direction."

"Thus the United States has reconsidered its previous policy refusing to issue licenses and other permission for export-import of military goods and services intended for Russia or manufactured in Russia," Demurin told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

Demurin assumed that this decision, which is "removing one of the obstacles of "the Cold War" from Russian-American relations, will open the way for a wider cooperation between our countries in the military-technical sphere."

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Russia: Russia 'Ready To Form Special Relations' With NATO

LD0904155296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Interfax) - Russia is ready to form special relations with a non-expanding NATO bloc, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing Tuesday.

These relations could become "a significant starting point" for the construction of a European security system, he said.

The special relations would mean that "besides the agreements NATO has with the NATO Council members or with governments participating in the Partnership for Peace program, there would be another or several other specific agreements with Russia," he said.

"They will reflect those areas of cooperation which are most appropriate for relations between a European policial organization and a world superpower like Russia, taking into account our economic, political, and military potential," Demurin said.

Russia: Ministry Aide: No 'Insoluble' Problems at Post-COCOM Talks

MM0904140796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Golts: "No Reason To Get Hysterical"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest round of talks on the creation of a new organization to monitor exports of conventional armaments and dual-use goods and technologies ended in Vienna last week. This organization is designed to replace the unforgettable Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls [COCOM]. More than 30 states, including Russia, the East European countries, South Korea, Argentina, and former COCOM participants are currently taking part in the talks.

At the conclusion of the talks U.S. Under Secretary of State Lynn Davis made some very strong remarks, accusing Russia of refusing to shoulder an equal share of the responsibility for ensuring the new control regime.

At KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's request, Grigoriy Karasin, chief of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, commented on this situation. According to him, the Russian delegation was satisfied with the work done. During the talks it had been possible to noticeably expand the sphere of mutual understanding.

The talks, Grigoriy Karasin stressed, are confidential in nature and the Russian delegation is adhering to this principle. But we can note that a number of practical matters were raised and discussed in Vienna for the first time. Some of these, including the transparency problem, require further discussion. The Russian side was ready to approve an agreement during this round, but it came up against the reluctance of certain partners to abandon unilateral approaches. But there are no insoluble problems, Grigoriy Karasin concluded. Russia will be working on successfully resolving them. The next round of talks is scheduled for 11-12 July.

Judging by everything, Lynn Davis' remarks confused her Russian colleagues.

Russia: France, Russia Deny Arms-For-Pilots Deal in Bosnia

MK0904140396 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov: "French Captives For Russian Weapons. The French Foreign Ministry and the Russian Federal Security Service Deny Allegations About a Deal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [7 April], French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette denied the TF-1 television channel report saying that the Bosnian Serbs liberated two captive French pilots in exchange for Paris-paid deliveries of Russian weapons. A French Defense Ministry official has also made a similar statement.

A NATO Air Force plane bombarding military facilities of the Bosnian Serbs was shot down on 30 August last year. According to eyewitnesses, pilots bailed out successfully. On 8 December, the date when the London Conference on Bosnia Peace Settlement started, Herve de Charette demanded that the Serbs give information about the pilots immediately. A retaliation could come in the form of the cancellation of the signing ceremony for the Dayton peace agreement and a French veto on resolutions sanctioning the military operation in Bosnia. Andrey Kozyrev contacted the president from London and described the situation to him. According to Kozyrev, Boris Yeltsin "gave additional instructions" to special services. In his turn, Kozyrev instructed the Russian ambassador in The Hague to ask that the International Tribunal suspend consideration of the Karadzic and the Mladic cases. The ambassador, however, was offered a harsh affront.

Meanwhile, on personal request of Jacques Chirac, Jean-Paul Marchani, French intelligence veteran, went to Bosnia. With the assistance of Russian special services, he came into contact with leaders of the Bosnian Serbs and succeeded in liberating the pilots the day before the

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peace agreement was to be signed in Paris. The French side officially thanked Boris Yeltsin and Russian special services for assistance.

Later, yet another spicy detail became known: THE SUNDAY TIMES of Britain reported that Viktor Shipilov, Russian military attachi in Belgrade, had offered General Mladic refuge in Russia. Andrey Kozyrev denied this information on the day of its publication and told journalists that if the attachi had indeed made such an offer, this had been done on his own initiative. Yuriy Baturin, an aide to the president on national security matters, also denied THE SUNDAY TIMES information, but did so in an ornate way as well. At the same time, the information that Shipilov headed a task group on the liberation of the pilots, was confirmed as true.

The TF-1 program also showed another member of that group — Colonel Vladimir Kulish — who gave his version of this operation. He, however, said nothing about any deliveries of weapons. The television company did not demonstrate any documents or other evidence of such deliveries. Tatyana Samolis, press secretary of the director of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, who was asked to comment on this, told your SEGODNYA correspondent that in this instance the official French denial is the most authoritative source. In his turn, Aleksandr Zdanovich, acting head of the Public Relations Center of the Federal Security Service [FSB], confirmed that Colonel Kulish was indeed an FSB staffer and took part in the operation but denied emphatically any information about weapons. According to Mr. Zdanovich, Vladimir Kulish worked with the French television with the knowledge of the FSB leadership. The Russian Foreign Ministry refrained from any comments.

Russia: John Major Visit to Ukraine Seen as Warning to Russia

MM1004103096 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by Pavel Bogomolov: "Ukrainian Factor. Why J. Major Decided To Go to Ukraine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A rather interesting entry has appeared on the British foreign policy calendar toward the end of April. On his way to Moscow, where the leaders of the industrially developed countries are to meet to discuss problems of the safety of nuclear facilities, British Prime Minister John Major will be paying his first visit to Ukraine.

As for bilateral relations between London and Kiev, certainly there are some important and constructive questions that are overdue for top-level discussion. For example, the fact that not only the British, but the West Europeans in general are clearly lagging behind in the sphere of trade and economic links with such a large and comprehensively developed CIS state. In this sphere the Old World is unfortunately well adrift of the United States, for which Ukraine is the third — after Israel and Egypt — focus of its foreign economic and financial efforts abroad.

Indeed, within the EU, Britain is well behind not only the champions of the "new Ostpolitik" in the FRG, but also the French and the Italians in terms of the volume of investments and trade with Ukraine.

But as well as the real, tangible fabric of mutual relations, Whitehall, judging by preliminary reports in the best-informed publications, plans to introduce into the agenda of the upcoming Kiev talks a number of warnings against "Russian expansionism."

Since there is no actual evidence of the Kremlin's wanting to, or being prepared to, "swallow" Ukraine, in principle one might have imagined the following "stock forced explanation": The Russian Federation Duma has perturbed the custodians of Ukrainian independence with its decision on denouncing the Belovezhskaya accords. But, apparently, many people in London and Kiev are unhappy not only with the Russian parliamentarians, but also with...President B. Yeltsin himself, who a few days ago signed integration documents with his Belarusian counterpart.

So B. Yeltsin is now being told in no uncertain terms: We will support you only in the sphere of domestic reforms at the behest of the IMF and other international financial institutions. But we intend to resist the emergence of Russia as a power, albeit of limited, regional dimensions. Literally everything points to this, even the actual date of J. Major's upcoming visit to Ukraine. The fact that he intends to go there in the wake of the sixth postponement of the meeting between B. Yeltsin and L. Kuchma says a lot. The West is deliberately making a diplomatic thrust toward the Dnieper at the very moment when the entire range of questions about Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet is again up in the air. It is as if they are hinting to Kiev: Be more demanding at the talks with Moscow and we will support you. But it would be interesting to know what would be required of Ukraine in return.

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Russia: Moscow, Ukraine At Odds as Kiev Bars Russian Politician.

LD0904154596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Valerly Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 9 (Itar-Tass) — Diplomatic tensions arose between Russia and Ukraine as official Kiev barred a noted Russian politican from entering the mostly Russian-populated Crimean peninsula.

The ban to former State Duma deputy Konstanin Zatulin "creates a precedent of restriction in movement and even of a threat of deportation of a Russian citizen from Ukraine", Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing on Tuesday adding that Moscow has requested official Kiev to review its decision.

Ukraine barred Konstantin Zatulin from Crimea and Demurin said the "unusually sharp reaction" of Ukraine was caused, according to official Kiev, by the statements of the politician aimed "at destabilising the internal situation in Ukraine, instigating separatist moods among certain strata of the population".

Demurin said that Russia had forwaded a response note to official Kiev which stressed that "the very fact of sending by the Ukrainian side of a note with such contents and tone does not correspond to the friendly character of relations between our countries".

"There is an impression that Ukraine introduces into the system of Russian-Ukrainian relations the unacceptable practice of filing 'black lists' of politically unwanted citizens of the Russian Federation", Demurin said.

"It is to be noted that no official statements in connection with the stay of Zatulin in Ukraine last March have been made", he added.

"The embassy of Russia (in Kiev) expressed hope that the Ukrainian side would once again consider the consequences of its step and would recall its note regarding the ban for Zatulin to visit the Autonomous Republic of Crimea", Demurin said.

Russia: Sejm's Geremek: Kwasniewski Must Not Evade NATO Issue

MM0904110896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Leonid Kornilov: "The Poles' Advice to Their President on Setting Out To Visit Yeltsin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw — Aleksander Kwasniewski's visit to Russia, which is about to begin, is regarded in Poland as an extraordinary step forward. "It is necessary to have friends far away, but they are also needed close to," Marek Sivets [name as transliterated], minister of the Presidential Chancellery, said.

"The visit to Russia is possibly the most important of the foreign trips undertaken by the new president," Professor Bronislaw Geremek, chairman of the Polish Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission, declared.

In B. Geremek's opinion, in his conversation with President Yeltsin President Kwasniewski must not evade the most vexed question — that of Poland's joining NATO. "Poland wants — and the president is obliged to say so clearly — to secure all the rights and to assume all the obligations associated with NATO membership. This means full acceptance of Article 5 of the Washington treaty, which defines the solidarity of the alliance members in the event of another member becoming the victim of aggression. No other solutions, such as are sometimes mentioned in Russian journalism, are acceptable."

The professor urges his president to say all this in Moscow, making no allowances for the current election campaign.

The satirical weekly NIE has also issued its own parting words. They contain both a degree of earnestness and a degree of jest.

"When in Red Square it should not be forgotten that the monument to Minin and Pozharskiy, who drove the Polish team from the Kremlin, stands right there.

"Within the framework of a private conversation it is possible to touch on the subject of the presidents' love of tennis and even to joke: I would gladly establish something like the 'Kremlin tournament' in my own country if I were not afraid of opposition charges of taking Russia as a model.

"Kwasniewski is not Kohl and cannot afford to support Yeltsin openly in the election campaign. But he can, of course, share his election experience in conversation with him. Officially, it is better to say something like this: 'I have not come to Moscow to support one of the candidates. This is not my task, but I believe that the Russian people will make the very best choice.'

"Kwasniewski speaks English in the West so as to emphasize his allegiance to Europe. On no account must he speak Russian in public in Russia, or else they will think that a guy from a former 'Soviet colony' has come."

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Russia: Spokesman on Bulgarian 'Overreaction' to Yeltsin Remarks

LD0904154896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Interfax) - President Boris Yeltsin's remark to the effect that Bulgaria might eventually join the treaty between four CIS member states on closer economic and humanitarian integration were dictated by "the friendliest possible attitude toward the Bulgarian people," Mikhail Demurin, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing in Moscos Tuesday.

Demurin said that Bulgarian ambassador to Moscow Khristo Miladinov handed a note to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov saying that this remark might lead to a deterioration in Russian-Bulgarian relations.

Krylov said he failed to understand this overreaction on the part of certain Bulgarian leaders, Demurin continued.

Krylov explained that the Bulgarian TV coverage of the signing ceremony and the Yeltsin inverview was incomplete and the passage where Bulgaria was mentioned was reported out of context.

Yeltsin emphasized in his speech in the Kremlin on March 29 following the signing of the treaty between Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia that the document could be joined by other countries, in particular CIS member nations and added that it might eventually be joined by the Baltic countries and possibly Bulgaria.

Demurin recalled that Russian top leaders had repeatedly said that nobody will be dragged into any community by force.

Russia: Deynekin Cited on Handover of Fighter Planes to Kazakhstan

MM0904154096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Gennadiy Lisenkov of the Air Force press center and Anatoliy Ladin of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "Latest Versions of Aircraft 'Take Up Residence' in Kazakhstan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first detachment of the latest versions of fighter aircraft has taken off for Kazakhstan from the Russian Air Force Lipetsk training center airfield. Several dozen combat planes have been transferred to the Kazakhstan Air Force under a Russian Government directive. The celebrated Su-27s and MiG-29s plus training aircraft will be joining the "line" in the fraternal republic's army.

The first group bound for a Kazakhstan military airfield took to the skies under the command of Lieutenant General of Aviation Mukhtar Altynbayev, commander of that republic's Air Force. Commenting on this event, Colonel General of Aviation Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, noted that the transfer of aircraft is proceeding in accordance with intergovernmental accords and in the interests of protecting the Commonwealth countries' air borders. According to him, all Kazakhstan's pilots have undergone a retraining course at the Lipetsk center and have passed tests in flying the planes in various weather conditions and at any time of the day.

Russia: Compensation Sought From Estonia for Ruble Sale

LD0904175096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Leonid Raitsin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 9 (Itar-Tass) - Russia demanded a compensation from Estonia for Soviet cash roubles which were unlawfully sold by the Baltic state for hard currency in 1993, Foreign ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing on Tuesday.

He said the corresponding memorandum had been handed over to Estonian premier Tiit Vachi by Russian ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov last week.

Estonia withdrew Soviet roubles from circulation in June 1992 and sold them for hard currency in 1993 although, according to an agreement, it had to transfer all the cash to the Central Bank of Russia one month after the introduction of its national currency.

The Estonian "EESTI PAEVALEHT" newspaper quotes the memorandum as saying that "non-adoption by the government of the Estonian republic and the Bank of Estonia of measures to compensate to the Russian side the cost of the roubles for the moment of their withdrawal from the circulation may trigger adequate actions of the Russian side".

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin To Chair Security Council Meeting on Nuclear Summit

LD1004073896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0543 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhansky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Preparations for the nuclear summit will be the main topic of a meeting of the Russian Security Council to be chaired by Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin on Wednesday, Itar-Tass learnt from the Russian president's press secretary Sergey Medvedev.

The G-8 summit will be held in Moscow on April 18-20.

In the afternoon, the state commission for settling the Chechen crisis, chaired by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, will be held in the Kremlin with the participation of the Russian president.

It is expected that commission members will examine redeployment of federal troops as well as appropriations of funds for Chechnya's restoration.

Russia: Yeltsin: Russia To Announce Adherence to Vienna Convention

LD1004101796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Russia will announce at the upcoming Moscow nuclear security summit that the Convention on nuclear security, which it signed in Vienna in 1994, has come into force on the territory of the country, President Boris Yeltsin told a meeting of Russia's Security Council on Wednesday which was devoted to the preparations for the summit to be held on April 19-20.

The president said Russia would next sign the Vienna convention on responsibility for nuclear damage.

This agreement has not been signed yet and "there can be no more delays", Yeltsin said.

The president also said that the implementation of the programme for the utilisation of liquid and solid radioactive waste has begun in the Russian northern and Far Eastern regions and that bilateral agreements with countries of northern Europe, the United States and Japan would considerably facilitate it.

"This will allow our country to officially join the 1993 protocol to the London convention banning the dumping of radioactive waste in sea", the president said.

Yeltsin praised the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and said the G-7 countries and Russia should support the activities of the organisation.

The president also stressed that "Russia did everything possible to store all former Soviet nuclear weapons on its territory" and added that the last stage of withdrawing nuclear arsenals of Belarus and Ukraine to Russia and their dismantling is to be completed this year.

Speaking on preparations of the treaty on a general ban of nuclear tests, Yeltsin stressed that the document would help strengthen the international non-proliferation regime and will become another step towards a nuclear-free world.

Russia: Yeltsin Stresses Need To Combat 'Nuclear Terrorism'

LD1004102996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0936 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Apr (Itar-Tass) — The G-8 countries which are holding a summit on nuclear security issues in Moscow 19-20 April need constantly to keep within their sights the devising of measures to curb the illegal trade in nuclear materials and to prevent nuclear terrorism, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today at a sitting of the Russian Security Council.

Today's council sitting was devoted to preparations for the forthcoming Moscow summit. In the view of the Russian head of state, a mechanism for the exchange of information needs to be set in motion and cooperation with the special services in this area needs to be developed.

Addressing Mikhail Barsukov, director of the Federal Security Service, and Minister of Internal Affairs Anatoliy Kulikov, who took part in the sitting, Boris Yeltsin indicated the need for bilateral or multilateral agreements to be concluded through their departments' channels with the relevant departments of other countries. The head of state also spoke of the need to draw up a protocol on collaboration between the special services of the G-8 with regard to curbing the illegal trade in nuclear materials.

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Russia: Yeltsin: Russia Building Reliable Nuclear Storage

LD1004104796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1036 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Russia is building reliable storage facilities for nuclear materials salvaged in the course of disassembling nuclear weapons, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in a speech to the National Security Council in the Kremlin today.

Yeltsin said the United States was assisting in the construction of a facility where around 40 percent of Russia's stocks of weapons-grade plutonium will be stored on the premises of the Mayak production association in the Chelyabinsk region.

After the construction of the project is completed, it will be put under control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Russian President said.

Yeltsin stressed that he regarded the project as a positive example of cooperation and thought that it should be followed by other countries.

Russia decided unilaterally on a brave move — "we announced that 500 tonnes of highly-enriched weapons-grade uranium" will be processed for use in reactors at nuclear power stations, the President said.

He added that the uranium to be processed was excessive for the purposes of national defence.

Yeltsin said one of Russia's priorities was to create a modern system of physical protection, registration and monitoring of nuclear materials.

He told the Security Council that constructive cooperation has been arranged between Russian and American specialists in this field.

Equipment developed as a result of Russo-American cooperation project has been used to fit out 11 nuclear industrial installations, President Yeltsin said.

Russia: Yeltsin Submits Treaty With Turkmenistan to Duma

LD0904194296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today submitted to the State Duma a treaty for ratification between the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan on the joint protection of Turkmenistan's state border, and on the status of the Russian Federation border troops on the territory of Turkmenistan. The treaty was signed in Ashgabat on 23 December 1993. The press service of the head of state reported this to ITAR-TASS.

A letter sent by the head of state to State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev points out that the treaty creates a legal basis for the Russian border troops' activities to protect Turkmenistan's border, which at the same time is the outer border of the CIS member states, and that the treaty meets Russia's interests.

Russia: Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Hold 'Constructive Talk'

LD0904145196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian president's press service circulated on Tuesday a report which says:

"A regular weekly working meeting between the Russian president and the Russian prime minister opened in an unusual way today. Boris Yeltsin wished Viktor Chernomyrdin many happy returns of the day as this is his birthday. This pleasant moment, however, did not prevent the president and the premier from having a constructive talk on a broad range of questions.

"Chernomyrdin reported to the president about the implementation of his instructions for setting up an effective mechanism for pensions in the country and ensuring the timely payment of pensions.

"The premier told the president about the state of work on the package of draft presidential decrees aimed at perfecting the economic mechanism.

"Questions connected with the preparation of a regular meeting of the Russian Security Council were discussed during the conversation. The main theme of the Security Council meeting will be the organisation and holding in mid-April in Moscow of a meeting of head of state and government of the seven major industrialised countries and of Russia on nuclear safety.

"Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin discussed problems of the President's forthcoming meeting with members of the Russian state commission for the settlement of the crisis in the Chechen republic, led by the prime minister. The current situation in Chechnya was analysed in this connection.

"The president and the premier exchanged on the course of the presidential election campaign.

"Preparation for the Russian president's visit to China, planned for late April, was also discussed."

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Russia: Yeltsin Offers 'Unusual' Values; Popularity Growing

MK1004072696 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Georgiy Bovt: "Yeltsin Gambles on Healthy Society and Healthy Family"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The congress of President Boris Yeltsin's supporters has become the event that finalized the initial stage of the presidential campaign. The new stage is beginning amid the just-completed polarization of the electorate and the continuing leveling in the popularity ratings of the two leading candidates: the Russian president and the Communist leader.

Compared to the first weeks of the campaign — and it began in effect immediately after parliamentary elections, where the Communists scored a relative victory — today Boris Yeltsin's chances of staying in the Kremlin for another fours years look much better. His team has realized that it is dealing with an electorate that, as a result of totalitarian Soviet rule, has acquired some specific features setting it apart from Eastern, let alone Western, Europe. In this context the rejection of propaganda services by liberal pro-Western leaders has already justified itself — especially considering that owing to various reasons (including mistakes in forming a constructive market ideology in Russia at the preceding stages of reform) classical liberalism has to a large extent discredited itself in the eyes of common people. On the other hand, the president's team invoked, in a timely manner, ideological concepts more popular in Russia, in particular, state paternalism. The publicly voiced concern about wage arrears and the imperial wrath visited upon slack or simply unpopular government officials fit well into these paternalistic traditions.

In the past two months, which were marked by a sharp rise in Yeltsin's activity, he managed quite easily to recover at least one-quarter of his supporters. According to the All-Russia Central Institute of Public Opinion Research [VTsIOM], if an election were held now, Zyuganov would get (in the first round) 27 percent and Yeltsin, 21 percent. Other hopefuls for the Kremlin chair are visibly behind the leaders. According to the Public Opinion foundation, in late March the gap between Zyuganov and Yeltsin was minimal: 21 percent against 19 percent. Moreover, all surveys show that the voters' political activity in June will be quite high: Only 6-7 percent of the electorate are definitely not going to vote (according to the Public Opinion foundation). This is playing into Yeltsin's hands rather than Zyuganov's. As concerns the latter, sociologists are nearly unanimous that he has effectively mobilized his entire electorate, and there are no other sources from where he can expect more replenishment.

Much has been said about the part of society referred to as the "Zyuganov electorate." These are for the most part elderly people, less educated, and with lower incomes (for instance, according to the VTsIOM, there are 36 percent of Communist supporters among those with an average per household income of 100,000 rubles a month as compared to only 22 percent among those with incomes of 500,000 rubles and more). Zyuganov has more supporters among those who are not in a very good physical condition. For instance, drugs to alleviate heart pains are the most often found in the medicine chests of Zyuganov's (42 percent) and Svyatoslav Fedorov's (33 percent) supporters. True, Zhirinovskiy has the "healthiest" electorate: 13 percent assessed their state of health as poor while only 5 percent keep cardiac drops in their medicine chests. This must be why the LDPR Duma faction has come up with a bill granting voting rights to persons from the age of 16.

Concerning Yeltsin, many sociologists predicted from the very start that he would manage — fairly easily, quickly, and without any particular need to adjust his image — to regain the sympathies of approximately one-third of the electorate: that part which can be tentatively called pro-reform-minded. One-third out of what remains — neither leftists nor "reformists" — is referred to as "waverers." How else can you describe people who in response to the question about their attitude to a possible change of regime as a result of the election (that is, in particular, a change in the type of social system) say that they are either indifferent to that or are "not sure" (according to the VTsIOM, there are 37 percent of such)? The votes of these "waverers" will now be the target of a decisive struggle at the new stage of the election campaign — decisive because these votes will, to all appearances, tip the balance one way or the other in June. We should, of course, add "unfortunately" here, because this does not change the nature of problems facing the candidates.

At the initial stage of the campaign the favor of the "indifferents" or "don't knows" was sought by those who were termed in the press as the "third force." They were so termed prematurely, because there are no signs of an influential third force emerging at present. The problem is not only the inability of its potential leaders (Sv. Fedorov, Lebed, Yavlinskiy, and others) to come to terms among themselves but also the absence of a broad social base of this movement. Mikhail Gorbachev says that he will lead those who are against both Yeltsin and Zyuganov. Yet, first, those who are simply "against" cannot constitute a broad base for a

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mass movement. Second, a similar function in Russian politics has already been assumed by Zhirinovskiy.

Agitation and propaganda among the "waverers" calls for an intensified search for new propaganda methods, not abused in the political struggle. The Yeltsin team seems to have appreciated this challenge. Addressing a congress of his supporters, the president came out with a formula that is unusual to Russia: "a prosperous individual — a wealthy family — a free society — an equitable state." The subject of a healthy family, which is an accustomed thing in, say, the United States, is a novel feature in election campaigning in Russia. This feature is to be tested by Naina Yeltsin, the "first lady," who has already joined the election campaign. She told television viewers that the president not only reads official papers for two hours in the morning but that he is exceptionally meticulous, likes to set the table himself, and loves pelmeni [popular Russian dish, a homely version of ravioli]. If the voter, brought up in the spirit of paternalism, would like to see in the Kremlin not simply "the father of the peoples" [reference to Stalin] but also "the most human of all humans" [reference to Lenin], such a wish is worthy of being granted.

Russia: Zyuganov: Yeltsin's Advisers Planning To Disrupt Elections

LD0904151796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's circle of advisers are preparing a plan to disrupt the presidential elections, leader of the Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov, a contender for the Russian presidency, told a press conference in Moscow Tuesday.

"There are people who are ready to implement it," he said, stressing that the Communist Party would make its utmost to prevent such events.

He does not rule out possibility of falsification of results of the upcoming elections. "A representative of the popular-patriotic forces will be present at every third electoral district to prevent falsification. He will have a copy of the protocol of the vote at the elections and then this protocol will be published in mass media," Zyuganov said.

Work is concluding on formation of a shadow Government of Popular Confidence, which the opposition intends to introduce if it comes to power, Zyuganov said at the same press conference.

"There are professionals: competent and decent people in this Cabinet," Zyuganov said. Among them are State Duma deputies Svetlana Goryacheva, Sergey Baburin, Viktor Ilyukhin and Vladimir Isakov. These politicians "will find where to use their talents in the struggle against crime and corruption," he said.

According to Zyuganov, the communists have developed a bill on a mechanism to transfer power by peaceful means, which they will publish before the presidential elections.

He advocated a live dialogue with current President Boris Yeltsin concerning the organization of government, settlement of the Chechen problem and social problems.

Russia: Zyuganov Holds News Conference 9 Apr

LD0904201996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Report over video by correspondent M. Tumanova on news conference given by Russian Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov on 9 April, including recorded segments of Zyuganov remarks — from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Representatives of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] are actively visiting Russian cities. Unsolved problems can be found in each one of them. Gennadiy Zyuganov, for example, visited three large regions over a short period, as he told journalists at a news conference today. [screen fades briefly into picture of two-headed eagle — a Russian state symbol — and the words "Election '96"]

[Tumanova] Around 30 representatives of the creative intelligentsia — artistes, artists, poets, and critics — today signed an agreement on joint action to back Gennadiy Zyuganov in the election.

The leader of the CPRF also acquired an ally today in the form of another politician: Aleksandr Rutskoy finally made up his mind and called on his Derzhavniks [members of his Derzhava — Great Power — movement] to vote for Zyuganov.

The leader of the CPRF also met journalists today. He gave them a scolding and at the same time expressed sympathy with them.

[Zyuganov] I feel sorry for your talented pens and fine camerawork because I see a lot of people shooting film and then not getting the airing they deserve on television or in the newspapers. We will have a think about how we should react to the massive silence being kept about our election campaign, and we hope that those whom this concerns through long service will react to this.

[Tumanova] All three national Russian television channels and the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA came in for criticism. There

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are two points on which the present authorities and the CPRF have similar points of view. Historical justice has triumphed. Zyuganov said about the agreement signed between Russia and Belarus. And as for NATO's eastward expansion:

[Zyuganov] Polar psychology — that of military blocs — has yet to die completely. No country will benefit from it in the future.

[Tumanova] Unconditional support for Stalin's policies does not fit in with Gennadiy Zyuganov's ideal. He condemns the repressions and infringements of the law and he says that he is against settling scores today, too. He even says things which would be seditious for former communists.

[Zyuganov] I favor having a mannerly, articulate, professional opposition. I am doing everything to aid this process. Everything.

Russia: Supreme Court Orders TsIK To Register Bryntsalov

LD1004110296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 10 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday [10 April] that the Central Election Commission [TsIK] must register State Duma member and billionnaire Vladimir Bryntsalov as a candidate for the Russian presidency at the June 16 election.

Bryntsalov was denied registration because the Central Election Commission said a third of the signatures in his support were forged.

But the Supreme Court ruled that the rejection of Bryntsalov was unjustified and ordered to have him registered by Thursday.

On Tuesday Central Election Commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov said that, if the court orders to register Bryntsalov, his commission would lose the last instrument to control the election campaign.

Russia: Yeltsin Appoints Regional Plenipotentiary Representatives

LD0904154096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1319 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (Itar-Tass) — Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, today appointed by decree plenipotentiary representatives of the president of the Russian Federation to a number of regions in the country:

To the Novosibirsk Region, Igor Viktorovich Shmidt; to the Amur Region, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Gordeyev; and to the Bryansk Region, Viktor Ivanovich Kompantsev.

This information was given to ITAR-TASS by the press service of the head of state.

Russia: Zyuganov 'Will Not Object' to Abolition of Presidency

MM0904150896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Zyuganov Entering Elections With Idea of Abolishing Presidency"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will the post of Russian Federation president be abolished in the event of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] representative winning the elections? In reply to a question by IZVESTIYA correspondent Anatoliy Stepovoy, Gennadiy Zyuganov declined to give a direct answer but said that the state powers which the Russian president currently wields will be redistributed among representatives of the other branches of state power. From what he went on to say, it followed that the presidential candidate G. Zyuganov will not object to the abolition of the presidency.

Russia: Soskovets Chairs Government Session

MM0904133596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Weekend Edition in Russian 5 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "So Far We Are Poorly Insured Against Ailments"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's session of the country's government under the chairmanship of First Vice Premier O. Soskovets was devoted to the most diverse topics: from the development of Russia's waterways to insured medicine, from the law on martial law to plans for industry's base sectors.

The Ministry of Transport had prepared best of all, submitting a completed federal program for "Russia's internal waterways for 1996-2000." So the discussion and approval of the program proceeded smoothly. The main aim of the program is to prevent the death of the enormous network of river routes and shipping canals and to create competition for rail transport and reduce prices for shipments. Expenditure of 9 trillion rubles [R] is required for all this, of which R3.6 trillion will come from nontreasury sources.

On the other hand Health Minister A. Tsaregorodtsev had a hard time reporting on the fulfillment of the

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law "on compulsory medical insurance for citizens in the Russian Federation." The polemic showed that not one of the goals of medical insurance set four years ago has been fulfilled in practice. No increase in financing for health care has been insured nor has doctors' remuneration been linked to the quality of their work. And even someone who has a compulsory medical insurance fund policy, when he moves from one city to another, is forced to forget about free services. The level of provision in health care varies from one Russian Federation component to another, sometimes by a factor of 10.

It is not only a question of the economic crisis which has driven medicine into a the depths of disaster. It is also a question of the fact that the existing system of insurance has proved to be chaotic and imperfect and "feudalized" according to the regions. There is no direct link between how a person pays into the fund and how he is provided with services. Ideally Russian citizens with an insurance card in their pockets should be able to move freely throughout the country, sure of guaranteed medical aid. In any medical institution, paid for by their contributions.

It is indicative that Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast has completely abandoned the compulsory medical insurance fund. In the opinion of the authorities there you cannot split up "medical funds" when they are in such short supply. And the result is that the local health care organs are responsible for people's health and the funds in which substantial sums are accumulating bear no responsibility.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets with the support of his colleague V. Kadannikov deemed this question to have been very badly prepared. A working group under the leadership of Health Minister A. Tsaregorodtsev has been formed to elaborate changes to the law on compulsory medical insurance. It has been given a month for the task.

Yesterday the government also approved almost without discussion draft laws "on the basic principles of the activity of the municipal health care system" and "on martial law."

The final, confidential, issue was a discussion of the situation in the base sectors of Russian industry in the first quarter of this year. And plans for their life in the rest of 1996.

Russia: Duma Upstages Finance Ministry in Budget Process

MK0904124896 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Yelena Medvedeva: "The Government Has Lost the First Round to the Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's session of the Duma Budget and Finance Committee became a sensation. For the first time in the history of post-Soviet Russia, nine months before the beginning of a fiscal year, parliament has started a new budgetary process. The deputies were offered the bill "On Procedures for the Submission, Consideration, and Approval of the 1997 Federal Budget," worked out by parliamentary experts. This means that the Finance Ministry, which prepared an analogous draft, has lost to the State Duma and that the 1997 budgetary process may unfold not according to the rules written on Ilyinka Street [Finance Ministry headquarters].

The bill "On Procedures for the Submission, Consideration, and Approval of the 1997 Federal Budget" was discussed for more than an hour, and in a very emotional way. The speakers for the most part were committee members, not Irina Flyagina, chief of the Finance Ministry Budget Department, who was invited to the session. Her presentation was clearly superfluous: The government had laid out all of its numerous complaints about this Duma bill on paper. The polarization of the government and committee positions was obvious: Committee Chairman Mikhail Zadornov believes that the bill should be adopted as soon as possible, while Flyagina thinks that it is not the right time to adopt it.

The government's case can be strengthened by the lack of unanimity in committee members when they considered the new bill. The concept of the bill regulating the passage of the budget law in the lower house was introduced by Budget Subcommittee Chairperson Oksana Dmitriyeva. The basic proposition, in her opinion, is that the budget will have, not three, but four readings. The second reading will be new in principle since it will deal with all the big ticket items: defense, public health, and so forth. Earlier, the whole budget preparation work was concentrated in the budget and finance committee. Now such powers are to be granted to the Duma's other committees. According to Dmitriyeva, this will help ensure a more effective fund allocating operation. Now the budget and finance subcommittee will not be the only one to rack its brains over, say, how to raise another 2 trillion rubles for education.

Under the draft, all questions related to changes in the tax law will be discussed at a Duma session only after a

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new budget has been adopted on first reading. In effect, the same rules will apply to laws on extrabudgetary funds: Their adoption will become possible only after the budget has been given a second reading. This also goes for the law "On Interrelations Between the Federal Budget and the Budgets of the Federation Components."

The government's position on the bill is formulated in an eight-point document. This position is forthright: The government does not agree to the Duma's trespassing the jurisdiction of the executive branch or its establishing the procedure and time frame for drafting the federal budget law (thus, under the bill, the government is to submit a draft budget and a whole number of collateral documents and materials by 1 August). The government also objects to the budget's being adopted in four readings and the introduction of tax changes after it has had its first reading.

The reason for the government's intransigence over the new bill lies on the surface: The Finance Ministry has effectively completed the preparation of an analogous draft federal constitutional law, "On Principles of the Budget System and the Budgetary Process in the Russian Federation," which will soon be considered at a government session. While this draft is in the Finance Ministry, First Deputy Premier Vladimir Kadannikov, who signed a relevant government resolution, recommends that the Duma only make some clarifications in the law on the procedure for approving the 1996 budget.

To all appearances, this proposal will be ignored. Having beaten Finance Ministry experts in the first leg of the 1997 budget legislative race, the deputies will hate to lose that lead. As a result, the committee approved the law in principle and at its next session on Thursday [11 April] will consider amendments to certain articles.

Russia: Current Trends in Communist Movement Noted

964F1702A Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 March 96 p 13

[Article by Nikolay Lvov under the "Forecast" rubric: "Will the 'United' Communist Bloc Disintegrate After the Presidential Elections?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The potential victory of the Communists and their allies in the presidential elections in the summer of 1996 brings up the question of the style and form of state administration this bloc can offer to the country.

It turns out, however, that there are no unified approaches to state administration on the part of the forces we conventionally call communist-patriotic and which, on various terms, are willing to support Gennadiy Zyuganov as candidate. Their program planks in the part on state administration are of an election campaign, strictly declarative, nature or are deeply contradictory and mutually exclusive.

We could already see an analogous situation in the Russia of the past few years, when the motley forces that congregated in 1990-1991 around Boris Yeltsin and Democratic Russia could offer no unified principles of governing and reforming the country.

The sources of the recurrent self-reproduction of such situations lie in the Russian tradition of oppositionism and opposition to the current state regime, in particular, total rejection of everything done during the rule of political opponents. There is no viable and balanced "opposition to His Majesty." The result is that in an era of dramatic social changes, with which the history of Russia of the past few years is replete, people who end up in critical leadership positions not only are unprepared to carry out the mission of governing the country but in principle are incapable of it, since their psychological and ideological reference points are oriented exclusively at self-admiration and the destruction of everything "to the ground, and then...," rather than the consistent and laborious organizational development of the state.

There are uncountable examples in the course of the "revolutionary stage of perestroyka" of people, incapable in principle of understanding what the State is, how it functions, and how it differs in principle from a rally or handing out free gifts, ending up at the helm of power. The term of their stay "in power" was different, but the result, as a rule, the same—dismal.

Currently the situation in Russia is on the surface the direct opposite of that of 1990-1991—back then everybody was burying their red party membership cards, while today they are digging them up, stamping the notation of payment of membership dues for the past five years, and putting them to work. However, the common feature of the two historic periods of time is that then, as now, persons of an expressed antisystem type of personality have the chance to make it into the state administration at various levels. These types' chances of "breaking into power" increases as the social and property differentiation in society grows, the negative trends in economic development become exacerbates, and the elite (all of it, not only the ruling part) increasingly withdraws from social problems and demonstrates powerlessness and lack of will. The elite is always responsible for the people and their material and spiritual state—this is a payment of sorts for leadership in society and the privileges associated with this leadership. Therefore it would be quite logical if it,

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and not only the people, had to pay for the social and economic costs of reform. Sending a considerable part of the Russian elite back to the periphery of social and economic life for having failed its purpose could easily be counted as such payment.

In the case when, on top of the aforementioned, "restoration" processes are brewing in society—and this is another potential outcome of the restoration of Communists' political domination in Russia—the situation is also exacerbated by the fact that together with "anti-system personalities," people whose social and administrative experience is hopelessly obsolete again have the chance of finding themselves at the helm of power. These are people who live not so much by today's realities as by nostalgic recollections of times past and the old order, carrying the load of political and other grudges, and dreaming of social revanche.

These two categories of people are generously represented within the marching offensive of the Communist bloc.

The result is that a most accomplished and active radical democrat quite easily may turn out to be a psychological twin and historical predecessor of a convinced Communist, the way two sledgehammers—one painted red and the other white—can be alike. Therefore, radical Communists' rallies justifiably cause concerns: Is not primordial communist anarchism in all its "shaggy" glory coming to replace radical democratic "plundering"?

For purely communist forces this situation also is made worse by the fact that communist ideology itself is very contradictory in formulating vital problems of organizational development of the state in the event of a successful takeover of political power, up to de facto completely rejecting the need for the state and replacing it with a system of self-governing councils or other varieties of territorial and production communities. Intensive study of the "founders'" works usually only makes the problem even more confusing. This is exactly the case Chairman Mao had in mind when he said: "The more you read, the more stupid you become."

Model No. 2, and the one best known and tested in practice, is, as is known, the type of ideological state which completely overlaps with society and therefore does not need separation of powers but on the other hand experiences constant need for the existence of official and all-penetrating ideology. The next type of potentially communist social system is the so-called "national state," in which a privileged position is established for one nation or religious confession. However, using Russian ethnocentrism in homeopathic doses for the consolidation of the ruling regime is a matter of great political skill. The risk of sliding into unbridled xenophobia is great—in Russia, if something does begin to happen, it necessarily happens excessively and across-the-board. At the same time, we have to remember that, having embarked on this road and even having consolidated the majority of the Russian population (which by itself is a big "if"), we run a risk of this policy being flatly rejected by ethnic minorities, who will immediately find themselves feeling like "guests in their own home." Going into the elections not as a purely communist but as a communist-patriotic bloc increases the possibility this blueprint will be realized, and in many important features the bloc itself will then run the risk of acquiring a cartoonish-brownish coloration of the type "For Our Father the Tsar Under Red Banners" or Vladimir Voinovich's futuristic tales. The latter, of course, could in the end mean great trouble in the form of the disintegration of Russia into its ethnic components, ruined relations with its neighbors, and an ugly division of territories according to the Yugoslav scenario.

Only a small and the most "unorganic" part of the Russian Communists are carriers of ideas close to the Eurocommunists or social democrats. A considerable number of these few converged before the parliamentary elections into the Workers Socialist Party and lost, despite allying themselves with Yuriy Skokov and Aleksandr Lebed rather than Gennadiy Zyuganov and Aman Tuleyev.

Another group in CPRF ranks are deideologized economic managers, who for various reasons did not fit into "nomenklatura" and blocs of the NDR [Russia Is Our Home] type. However, they have already demonstrated more than once that they cannot independently appraise and control the situation in the case of all-out unrest and the disintegration of familiar structures and mechanisms of state authority. Absolutely unfit for such conditions, economic managers come on the scene only after the situation is stabilized somewhat and their talents and experience are again needed.

All this abstract reasoning overlays the phenomenon of the real CPRF and the Russian communist movement as a whole, in which internal struggle continues between different factions and groups. To the outside world, however, these groups so far prefer to demonstrate unity, qualifying it to a varying degree.

The most significant among them are the branches headed by CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, Anatoliy Lukyanov, and the RCWP's [Russian Communist Workers Party] Viktor Anpilov.

Viktor Anpilov "cum-comrade" draws on the tradition of struggle against the modern Russian state, thus

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continuing the cause of the Bolsheviks-revolutionaries and advocating the need to build some sort of alternative "workers state" with all power to the soviets, the leveling system of distribution, public ownership of the means of production, and limitations on the sphere of functioning of commodity-money relations in the economy. Even Vladimir Lenin had to give up all this, when in 1918 he introduced military communism, for the first time limiting the power of the soviets, and in 1921—the NEP [New Economic Policy], which set commodity-money relations free. Thus, what we have here is the most consistent and wholesome type of communist-revolutionary, approaching in his political beliefs the communist-anarchist type. It is through these people's efforts that the most radical revolutions and the most bloody provocations are accomplished, and it is these people who are, as a rule, the first to be eliminated by the regime when at subsequent stages of the revolution the need arises to stabilize the existing order and move it out of a state of revolution and into a mode of state and economic development. Let us not forget that the denouement of the bloody events of September-October 1993 began on the territory of the Oktyabrskiy Rayon Soviet (on Shabolovka), from where, from "RCWP headquarters," on 3 October the most agitated demonstrators marched under red banners to Red Square, Krymskiy Bridge, and then on to the White House and the mayoralty.

The second component of the Russian communist movement is the Lukyanov-Kuptsov branch in the CPRF, drawing on, and inherently leaning toward, the traditions of the latter-day Soviet state system. Of course, they are not anarchists. On the contrary, they propose sufficiently strict schemes of state organization that envisage constant party supervision over society's "nerve centers." Such projects vividly remind one of the "Chinese model," which Yuriy Andropov never succeeded in planting on Soviet soil. There are, however, differences between the former and the "Chinese" and Andropov-planned model. The Lukyanovites envisage not simply party supervision over society but collective party leadership, in which the individual responsibility of every leader, including the leader of the state—in our case, the president—is programmatically elaborated and substantiated in depersonified "Politburo" and "Central Committee" decisions. All this gives the Lukyanov model a transitional Bonapartist-bound, and even somewhat utopian, character. A touch of utopia also is felt because we still remember quite well how and why the soviet-party system, with its eroded responsibility for affairs of the state and headed by aged "leaders," suffered its predictable collapse. Therefore, it is absolutely obvious that if such a system emerges once again in modern Russia, it will come to the same dismal end as "good old" Brezhnevism.

Finally, the third, and at this point far from most influential component of the communist bloc, is Zyuganov's branch. It envisages not only a strong presidential authority, relatively independent of any constitutional and nonconstitutional institutions and in this sense potentially inheriting Yeltsin's form of governing, but also a much lesser ideological dependence on various views on society and the state inherent to "pure" communism. Moreover, Zyuganov and his supporters are accused by orthodox Communists of "opportunism," which, translated into Russian, only means that he is far from willing to dogmatically follow, no matter what, the orthodox recipes of Marxism-Leninism and the collective resolutions of "party comrades." The antisystem communism-anarchism preached by Anpilov's supporters is undoubtedly unacceptable to Zyuganov; as to Lukyanov's scheme, he may make partial use of it, albeit on a limited scale, without crossing the line of "active" decoration.

Zyuganov's model of state organizational development, which is still in the process of formation, contains considerable potential for using noncommunist recipes in reforming public life, as well as searching for allies and ideas among public figures who are not only not Communists, but who are deeply averse to this ideology. At the same time, it can be "released" only in an environment of a relative weakening of other more aggressive branches in modern Russian communism.

As state organizational development progresses, it may well turn out that it will be easier for statists and "system proponents" in the communist-patriotic and liberal-conservative camps to come to an agreement than it would be for the Communists and liberals with their radical "comrades." From this standpoint, Zyuganov's branch in "domestic communism" may prove quite promising for the purpose of consolidating society around some "middle-ground" ideological position. Communists-economic managers, who are above the direct ideological struggle and do not wish to delve into its nuances, will, of course, only welcome such rapprochement if it guarantees societal stabilization.

Another additional reserve for the implementation of this particular scenario is the presence on the Russian political scene of such a controversial political entity as the NDR, which is willing to absorb in moderate quantity any ideological extract as long as it will let it preserve itself as the "party of power." The common point in these outwardly opposite poles can be a healthy and maximally deideologized conservatism and economic pragmatism, which could unite a great

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number of political figures sharing a belief in the need of strengthening Russia's statehood in the real existing international context outside antagonistic political trends and even more so outside the agitated opinion of various exalted "comrades." It is quite obvious that such a multilateral rapprochement is only possible at the cost of a final split from temporary radical allies and fellow-travelers. Therefore, a split in the "unified communist bloc" after the elections is inevitable under any outcome: in the event of both Gennadiy Zyuganov's victory and his defeat. It will only be possible to forecast the configuration and quantitative proportions of the future split with a high degree of precision after the results of summer elections are known, but its general trends can be traced even now.

Media Issues

Russia: Senate Adoption of Broadcasting Law Seen as 'Censorship'

MM1004074596 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Nikita Vaynonen: "Opposition Wants To Introduce Broadcasting Censorship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent has learned that the Federation Council was planning to examine 10 April the question of its attitude to the late March Duma decision to overturn the presidential veto on the law on TV and radio broadcasting. If the upper house musters a two-thirds vote in favor of the law, the president will have to sign it under the Constitution. I would recall that he has previously rejected it as contravening many articles of the Fundamental Law and the laws on the mass media and on communications.

The role played by TV and radio in the run-up to elections is obvious. Overturning the veto gives the opposition a means of influencing the airwaves and is effectively a power of censorship: The federal and local TV and radio broadcasting commissions set up under the law on radio and television broadcasting are entitled to strip broadcasters of their license if they violate "requirements monitored by the commission," including at the top of the list the regulations governing election coverage. Given that two-thirds of the federal commission is made up of representatives of the legislature and itself "forms" the local commissions, its omnipotence is obvious. This is reinforced by the fact that, contrary to the law on the mass media, a license can be withdrawn without a court hearing by an arbitrary decision of this censorship department — and it will always find some excuse for taking action against the recalcitrant.

How will the senators vote? The TV and radio law directly enters the sphere of the rights and freedoms of man and the citizen which, under Article 72 of the Russian Federation Constitution, come under the joint jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and its components. But there is no mention of any joint jurisdiction in the TV and radio law. A strict centralized hierarchy governing the control of broadcasting is being created. In "forming" local commissions the regional authorities are permitted merely to put forward proposals, which the federal commission may or may not take into account. And Federation component representative and executive organs have for some reason been made equivalent in terms of their rights to...creative unions! The latter are also permitted to make "proposals."

If the TV and radio law is adopted, it will to all intents and purposes destroy the relations that are beginning to take shape — and quite fruitfully — in Russia's single news area. As this ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent was told by the Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting, the current procedure for the formation of regional state organs in charge of broadcasting issues are pretty democratic — the commissions are set up following representations from administration heads and are only ratified by the Federal Service.

Such commissions have already been set up in 68 regions. Agreements have been concluded with three commissions on transferring regional broadcasting to their full control, and similar agreements with be concluded with others. The local authorities have no complaints about any infringement of their rights. Adoption of the law would place in jeopardy both existing ties and the prospects for their development.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Duma Resolution Attacks Yeltsin's Comments on Communists

LD1004103996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1031 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 10 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma protested on Wednesday against the pronouncements of President Boris Yeltsin made during his trip to the Belgorod region early this month in which he said that some leading members of the communist opposition should be in jail rather than in parliament.

The Duma passed a statement in which it qualified Yeltsin's pronouncements as "rude" and "unacceptable".

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In Belgorod the president said that such Duma members as former Soviet premier Nikolay Ryzhkov, former Soviet parliament speaker Anatoliy Lukyanov and an organiser of the foiled anti-Gorbachev 1991 coup Valentin Varennikov should be kept in prison.

All the three are staunch supporters of presidential hopeful and communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov. Lukyanov and Varennikov were jailed after the 1991 coup, but later amnestied by the State Duma. Varennikov refused to accept the amnesty and a court later found him not guilty.

The State Duma said in the statement that all the three lawmakers had been elected by a majority of votes in their constituencies.

Russia: Duma Rejects Yeltsin's Draft Law on Legal System

LD1004103196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0916 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (INTERFAX) — Russia's State Duma Wednesday turned down President Boris Yeltsin's draft law designed to ensure the stability of the legal system in Russia and confirm its international obligations.

The law makers voted 186-65 against the draft law with a necessary quorum of 226 votes.

The Duma adopted a resolution, "On the Stability of the Legal System of the Russian Federation," to reaffirm that its March 15 vote abrogating the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements that formalized the dissolution of the USSR and confirming the validity of the March 17, 1991 referendum on the preservation of the Soviet Union "reflect the civic and political position of deputies and do not affect the stability of the legal system of the Russian Federation and its international obligations."

The resolution, submitted by the Russia's regions faction, was passed by a 283-5 vote.

The faction of the Liberal Democratic Party did not vote.

Russia: Duma To Analyze Nuclear Storage Conditions To Ensure Safety

LD0904090696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0323 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy has sent to the State Duma documents describing the conditions, in which fissionable materials are stored in the country. Russian legislators are going to analyse carefully the situation with ensuring nuclear security, Vyacheslav Sychev, leading specialist of the information department of the Ministry, told Tass.

According to Sychev, the interest of the legislators in problems of nuclear security is connected with preparations for the forthcoming summit of The Eight in Moscow on nuclear security problems, as well as with numerous statements of Western politicians, who called into question the safety of storage of nuclear materials in Russia. In the opinion of U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, the smuggling of fissionable materials or even whole nuclear projectiles from Russia may have most serious consequences for the national security of the United States. Sam Nunn, another influential U.S. politician, believes that the threat of the spreading of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons from the territory of the former USSR is the main reason for concern from the point of view of U.S. national security.

The Ministry of Atomic Energy has repeatedly expressed its opinion of the nuclear security problem, Sychev continued. It was stressed that reports about the smuggling of fissionable materials from Russia had proved to be at variance with the real situation. "On more than one occasion our representatives asked to send to us samples of the materials, allegedly smuggled from Russia, but there was no response to out requests. Specialists know that it is possible to determine the country of origin by some technical characteristics," Sychev said.

The Ministry of Atomic Energy spokesman believes it would be reasonable to analyse at the Duma committees the real situation with ensuring nuclear security in Russia. In his opinion, this will make it possible to impartially evaluate the situation, to make a comparative analysis and draw up corresponding legal standards reflecting the national interests of Russia, the way it was done in the United States and other Western countries.

Russia: Broadcasting Chief Criticizes Media Draft Law

LD0904123596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (ITAR-TASS) — A law on television and radio broadcasting "must create conditions for the development of broadcasting in the country, but the draft act proposed by the State Duma contains elements designed to contain its development," chief of the Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service Valentin Lazutkin told the Federation Council committee on science, culture and education which was discussing the bill today.

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The Federation Council upper house of parliament is due to decide on the draft act at its plenary meeting on Wednesday. As is known, work on the new law has been going on for three years. The President of the Russian Federation turned it down after finding some of its provisions to be at variance with the Constitution. But the State Duma lower house overruled the presidential veto and asked the upper house to do the same.

Lazutkin who represents the interests of one of the "subjects of law" in the debate told journalists that the draft act was "imperfect because it failed to incorporate in full measure principles of protection of the national broadcaster and the interests of Russia as a major broadcaster."

Lazutkin said the new bill failed to take into account that Russia had recently joined the Council of Europe. With all this in mind, Lazutkin called for mustering "courage and to take a broader look at the new law instead of trying to patch it up, as has been done for a long time."

He said numerous fundamental problems, including economic, were connected with television and radio broadcasting in Russia. He said that since the budget revenue was not replenished as planned, the broadcasters were finding themselves underfunded even during the election period.

In this context he said the new bill "provides no answer to the question about how television and radio broadcasters can survive and how the activity of broadcasting companies must be licensed."

Regional Affairs

Russia: Yegorov Praises Yeltsin During Tyumen Oblast Visit

MM1004082896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by N. Dudnikov: "Autonomous, But Ours. N. Yegorov's Tour of Siberian Oil and Gas Regions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyumen — Nikolay Yegorov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, has completed his tour of oil and gas towns in the Yamalo-Nenetsk and Khanti-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrugs.

At a conference on the results of the trip held at the Tyumen Oblast Administration he noted that the oblast is an exceptionally important Russian center in the context of economic and political reform.

Yegorov described Boris Yeltsin as a man who has done everything to ensure that Russia has moved from a totalitarian system to a free civic society and has entered the market system.

"But its opponents, fighting for their own interests in the election campaign, are just giving an 'outsider's advice.' They would doom Russia to new upheavals."

The second and equally important issue covered during Yegorov's trip was the strengthening of the foundations of federalism.

A tense relationship has prevailed over the past few years between official Tyumen and the two okrugs — the Yamalo-Nenetsk and the Khanti-Mansiysk Okrugs. The reason is that, under the Russian Constitution, autonomous okrugs have gained the status of Federation components — which is clearly not to the liking of the Tyumen Oblast Administration. It would like everything to go back to square one.

The approach must be constitutional — after all, the three Federation components already exist. That is Yegorov's view.

Russia: Kemerovo Governor Says Kuzbass Seems To Favor Yeltsin

LD0904195096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The Siberian Kuzbass coal region seems to be moving its backing to President Boris Yeltsin in his running for another presidential term.

Kemerovo regional governor Mikhail Kislyuk said at a news conference here today that regional opinion polls in March had found the rate of approval to reforms to have grown to 15 percent, from a sheer 3.5 percent in polls prior to the December parliamentary elections.

The polls suggested, though, that 30 percent of people scolded the reforms, but the figure was 48 percent in December, when communists made a big showing in the legislative elections.

Kislyuk related the change of moods to Yeltsin-ordered clearing of the arrears in wage to the regional coal sector and to launched social programmes, into which some 12 percent of the regional budget is now diverted.

Kislyuk said the Kuzbass region is involved in a programme of restructuring its coal industry by closing down loss-making mines by 2000 without plunging the region into misery.

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Russia: NDR's Belyayev Canvassing for Yeltsin in Far East

MK1004083196 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Oleg Kryuchek: "The 'Russia Is Our Home' Faction Is Urging Provincial Voters To Side With Boris Yeltsin. Sergey Belyayev Is Counting on 65 Percent of Democratically Minded Citizens and Supporters of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Belyayev, leader of the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] parliamentary faction, now on a visit to Khabarovsk Kray, called the winning of Russian Far East voters over to Boris Yeltsin's side the second most important task. The most important task, in the opinion of the parliamentarian, is the peace settlement of the Chechen conflict. A group of NDR deputies intends to visit Vladivostok, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy to meet there local administration heads, military and border guards commanders, heads of industrial enterprises, businessmen, and representatives of political parties and public organizations.

Making no secret of electoral aims of his visit to the province, Mr. Belyayev confirmed that NDR leaders and members of the presidential team feel greatly worried about totally pro-Communist orientation of the people in the Far East. In his opinion, the approach to the solution of regional problems should differ from that used to settle the Chechen conflict. First of all, Sergey Belyayev intends to support in the parliament the program of restructuring the Far Eastern economy, better known as the "Far East and Transbaykal" program, initiated by Khabarovsk Governor Viktor Ishayev. Mr. Belyayev proposed that this program be formulated as a separate law, and his faction and he personally intended to vote for its approval by the State Duma.

After this, the Duma deputy intends to enlist support of workers of budget-funded organizations and pensioners, whose situation, in his words, can hardly be saved by the present payments from the federal budget. Sergey Belyayev believes it is time that a sure mechanism to compensate for people's money deposits at the Russian Sberbank be finally worked out. This notwithstanding, Mr. Belyayev is bitterly against the present activities of the factions of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], which, in his words, are simply flooding the State Duma with socially biased draft laws, that are not backed by anything and can only unbalance the present Russian budget — which would be very advantageous for the Communists and the Zhirinovskiy supporters on the threshold of the election.

In an answer to SEGODNYA's question about the attitude of the "Russia Is Our Home" faction toward the intergovernmental agreement on the demarcation of the eastern sector of the Russian-Chinese border, Mr. Belyayev said that he had not studied this problem in detail, but intended to do so during his trip over the Far East. He, however, feels sure that his faction will doubtless assume the stance that corresponds to Russia's interests. Answering the question on whether Boris Yeltsin was not too old and unhealthy to act as Russian president again, Sergey Belyayev said: "I have been long reflecting on what age a president in this country should be. So, I came to the conclusion that a president should be a person with great experience and wisdom. Therefore, the most appropriate age for a president is 60-65-70 years." Judging by the results of the State Duma election, Mr. Belyayev believes that the 65 percent of Russian people whose votes last December were dispersed due to their support of numerous democratic parties, can now vote for Boris Yeltsin. The leader of the Duma NDR faction also believes that if people are to choose between Yeltsin and Zyuganov, those supporting the LDPR will give their votes to Yeltsin, since they are anti-Communists too.

Russia: Smolensk Problems, Zyuganov Visit Detailed

MM0904150396 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Zhanna Kasyanenko: "Smolensk Fortress. Seven Meetings in One Day"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ...From almost 0500 hours Smolensk's insomniac old people began filing into Lenin Square. They were waiting for Zyuganov. He had intended to come here two weeks ago, but the threat of an emergency that was hanging over the country at that time did not allow him to tear himself away from Moscow. But now people are standing and waiting. Badly dressed, frozen, with sticks on the slippery spring asphalt. There are many of them, although there were no official announcements. But they came. A young, sturdy guy with cheerful, cunning eyes struts among them, they greet him happily and everybody looks somewhere up above. There, on an angular, tall, beautiful building which was rebuilt after the war, right on the turret two red banners are unfurled. These people know that every holiday this bold youth climbs up there and fixes the banners there. But they will not say his name: What does it matter.... Whereupon a smart, swarthy youth rolls up and asks them something. They talk confidentially and happily but suddenly fall silent, and a whisper goes round: They are from

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MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. Television crews take to one side the oldest people who are the most agitated and worn down by life, wars, and poverty and film them — embittered, toothless — in order to frighten Yeltsin with them. What can our old people stimulate in the rest of the country apart from aching pity and guilt? A small boy, stretching his slender child's neck like a cock and clenching his fists, pushes his way through to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. "Stop" — I take hold of his arm. "What are you doing?" "Didn't you read about how he rubbished Zyuganov's trip to Ryazan? It's the same man, I recognize him...let him sit in his BMW and take a ride to Moscow, there is nothing for him to do here!" "And might you be?" I ask him. "A student," he says. It turns out that this boy is in Zyuganov's security group organized by local inhabitants. It is unlikely that Zyuganov knows that such a group exists, but it does and young people are in it. True, were something to happen, God forbid, these bodyguards would show some sense. Although they are after all Smolensk inhabitants, volunteer militia by birth and spirit, the grandchildren of these same old people covered with orders and medals, the descendants of the 1,000 Russians who saved the Fatherland from so many enemies in the narrow gap between the Dnieper and the Dvina where Smolensk is located. So, who can tell?...

Not for nothing did the city party committee tell me that, while there is a "Red belt" around Moscow, Smolensk is like its soldier's buckle. Although, judging from the meetings which Gennadiy Zyuganov had in Smolensk — and there were seven of them in one day — currently it is not that important to people what color a belt is, something else is more important to them: Who will be able to save the country? To the credit of Smolensk inhabitants it must be said that they never believed in the current government. In all the votes, whether the 1993 Duma elections, or the April plebiscite on the Constitution with those absurd "yes-yes-no-yes" answers, or the latest December elections, they have steadfastly given their preference to people's power, to the Communists. So, you say, how should the administration govern this oblast, how should the upcoming election be run so as not to enrage Yeltsin and so that they don't end up the loser?

For some reason it seemed to me that it was not altogether an accident that on the day of Zyuganov's arrival the oblast's top people were on business trips. To no purpose. The very logic of the conversation with representatives of the city's and oblast's legislative and executive branches highlighted the center's terrible isolation from the way in which the regions are living. People whom it is hard to suspect of not wanting to work for their own areas — Zusmanov, first deputy head of the oblast administration, Mayor of Smolensk Anisimov — asked Zyuganov to pass on the message to Moscow that it is impossible to implement laws and edicts which have not been thought through, have not been coordinated with the regions, and have not been backed up with funds. For instance, the law on veterans alone requires 758 billion rubles [R] when the oblast budget totals R2 trillion. [passage omitted]

...Yevgeniya Prishletsova, an information center engineer from Desnogorsk, where Smolensk Nuclear Power Station is located, says:

"We now have a ration card system in the city. The electric power station has not received wages since January, and had it not been for the director's incredible efforts and his care for people we would have died from starvation. But a solution to the problem was found, we get food from stores on credit, using cards. It is not known when we will settle up."

Yevgeniya Ivanovna, an indigenous Smolensk inhabitant, says that previously the well-supplied and respectable city had a reputation in the Smolensk region for being virtually the only center of "democracy." Despite being well paid and having full social protection, why not abuse the Soviet authorities and desire something even better? Which they did. Now, she says, the people are rapidly turning left again. When they found out that Zyuganov was coming to Smolensk they assigned their own "observers" — come and see, we are going to vote for him. Not for anybody else! [passage omitted]

At all seven meetings the halls were filled to overflowing, each was attended by 1,000-1,500 people of the most diverse ages and professions: workers and peasants, students and the intelligentsia, military personnel and the unemployed. Incidentally, according to Union of Unemployed (such a thing does exist) Chairman Anatoliy Dushenko, the army of unemployed in the Smolensk region totals no fewer than 200,000 people. "What do you think, will they give their votes to Yeltsin?" he asked slyly.

There were wary people, raptly attentive people, and enthusiastic people. There were no indifferent people because everybody has gone to extremes. But there was no hopelessness either, which surprised me at first. The reason for this became clear after two or three meetings: The presidential candidate was so reliable, energetic, and strong, like a coiled spring, incredible resilience was sensed in him, which people sense unerringly. His fact-based analysis of the situation in which the country finds itself was very accurate and consisted of the truth, the truth which everybody — from the high-ranking oblast official to the student — is encountering, and the

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program for getting out of the crisis is understood by and acceptable to everybody: the private farmer and the collective farm worker, the principal of an institute and the worker, the pensioner and the artist. The author of the wonderful monument to Tvardovskiy and Terkin — Smolensk man Albert Georgiyevich Sergeyev — shared his thoughts: "Our land is so rich in talent and soul but everything in it has now frozen as if faced with a threat, everything is suppressed. My students cannot study art in full depth: The government has no money for this. But Zyuganov has already really done a lot for Russia. He is keeping the promises he has made to the people even in this situation which is very difficult for him. The denouncement of the Belovezhskaya treaties is part of this work."

At each meeting Gennadiy Andreyevich very insistently asked people to familiarize themselves carefully with his program, to think about it, and to make proposals of their own, simultaneously explaining their approaches to economic, political, and ideological problems, the main substance of which is reliance on the people, on its talent, energy, and industriousness, and on strengthening the Fatherland. It turns out that there are realistic, nationally well- founded decisions on literally all questions — from Chechnya to the economy. If the government has so far not listened and has not wanted to listen to them, now that the people have been told about them they are unlikely to believe the regime's new promises about its desire to change anything for the better.

At the last meeting several officers approached Zyuganov and asked him for his autograph as a memento. I asked them what kind of mood the Army is in. An artillery lieutenant colonel replied: "Gennadiy Andreyevich was right when he said that the Army has always been like a second church to Russians. This church has now been defiled. Can you can see how many military personnel there are in the hall? (the event took place in the district House of Officers)? This — I assure you — is by no means all those who will support Zyuganov. We very much want to hope that no other support apart from our votes will be required."

Russia: Murmansk Head Calls For International Help With Nuclear Waste

MK1004081596 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Vatrasov: "World Community Aid Needed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of Murmansk Oblast, Yevgeniy Komarov, suggests that the world community be called upon to recycle Russia's nuclear waste. He voiced this view at a press conference in Moscow yesterday. Murmansk Oblast has long faced problems with nuclear waste, with the situation simply having become critical in recent days. In addition to the spent fuel from the vessels of the Murmansk Sea Shipping Lines and the Northern Fleet that is awaiting recycling, there is [spent nuclear fuel from] dozens of submarines that Russia is obliged to destroy under START II. Today, Murmansk Oblast is the region in the world with the highest nuclear waste saturation. The situation will only become worse in the coming years, because two generators of the Kolskaya AES [nuclear power station] are to be decommissioned. The oblast has almost no problem recycling liquid waste [as published]. Solid waste is stored at the base in Guba Andreyeva built in 1958. Competent departments are still unable to decide on the site where it can be buried. But this is a matter of time. As for dismantling combat submarines, this cannot be shouldered by either the oblast or the fleet, which is obliged to divert thousands of seamen from naval service to maintain these submarines in good repair. In Yevgeniy Komarov's view, help should come from the world community which, no less than us, is interested in ecological safety. There are already precedents: Norway has appropriated $42 million toward reconstruction of the "Pechenga-Nikel" combine which poisons Europe's entire North.

Russia: Foreign Nuclear Submarine Chased From Naval Exercise Area

MM0504140996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Mar 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report from Northern Fleet exercise area by Valeriy Anuchin, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [120809] [Anuchin over video of ship firing a gun] Northern Fleet command and staff exercises have started in the Barents Sea. Taking part in them are more than 50 surface ships, nuclear and diesel submarines, and naval aviation.

The detection of a foreign nuclear submarine near our shores during the first hours of the exercises confirms the high level of combat readiness of the Northern Fleet's servicemen. The submarine was put under surveillance, and then forced out of the area with the help of special acoustic equipment. The appearance of an alien vessel, and especially a nuclear submarine with nuclear weapons on board, in an area where exercises involving dozens of powerful modern ships are taking place endangers navigation and is fraught with serious consequences.

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Incidentally, last year there was a collision in the same exercise area between a Russian submarine and two U.S. submarines — Baton Rouge and Grayling. At the time it was possible to avoid a catastrophe.

However, foreign warships continue to show interest in the Russian Navy and are again intruding into the exercise area which, incidentally, is always notified in advance. Valeriy Anuchin, Oleg Kulya reporting for Russian Public Television from the exercise area. [video shows warships, submarine, aircraft in flight, commanding officer]

Russia: Fuel Leaks From Volga Region Pipeline

LD0904065796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0646 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, April 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Almost four hundred tonnes of liquid fuel leaked from a pipeline near the village of Veredeyevo in the Nizhegorod region over the past few days.

The fuel is being contained in a pit, pumped into tanks and transported away from the site of the leak. The hole in the pipeline has been stopped and more than 200 tonnes of the fuel have already been removed from the site.

Officials in the Ministry for Emergencies told Itar-Tass the incident posed no threat to the local inhabitants and the environment.

Russia: Farmers Suspected of Tapping Fuel Pipelines

LD0904085196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0718 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Eduard Vasilyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GUS KHRUSTALNYY, Vladimir region, April 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Incidents in which fuel begins to leak from oil and petroleum product pipelines that showed no fault in winter are increasingly often reported in Russia in spring, directly prior to the beginning of spring field works in affected areas.

Last night, an emergency team of repairmen was alerted to a diesel-fuel fountain from a petroleum product pipeline running via the Vladimir region en route from Nizhniy Novgorod to Vtorovo to Ryazan.

The leak near the village of Semyonovka, Gus Khrustalnyy district, was soon plugged but the team waited for the arrival of officials from the regional environmental protection agency and the prosecutor's office as the hole in the pipeline suggested an idea that it had been "manmade."

The environmentalists and investigators have pulled efforts to establish the real cause of the damage and the amount of diesel fuel that soaked the soil near the river Sudogda.

Local sources believe that the soaring prices of liquid fuel might have motivated farmers to drill holes in the pipeline in order to get fuel for field work that cannot wait for the promised but still unavailable subsidies or loans from banks.

Local financial authorities insist that the required funds are not available through no fault of theirs.

A commission has been formed to look into the incident near the village of Semenovka and other "incidents" of the same sort in the Vladimir and neighbouring regions which are beginning their spring field work.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Foreign Ministry Official on 'Broader' Relations With NATO

LD0904165696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — Ukraine wants broader relations with NATO outside the framework of the North Atlantic Alliance and of its Partnership for Peace programme, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry official Igor Kharchenko said.

"The key moment in the relations between Ukraine and NATO is that the state (Ukraine) is an organic part of Europe's central eastern region, whose countries are in favour of the enlargement of this military bloc," Kharchenko told a briefing on Tuesday.

"Nevertheless, Ukraine will not make an application for entering NATO in the near future," he said.

According to the ministry's spokesman, NATO has "an understanding of Ukraine's specificity in the field of security, both regional and European."

"NATO has a deep understanding of the motivated nature of the Ukrainian position concerning the need for establishment of special relations," Kharchenko added.

He said Ukraine would submit its proposals of broader relations with NATO to its Secretary-General Javier Solana during his official visit to Kiev on April 15-16.

Kharchenko declined to elaborate on the proposals, saying that some of them had been already heeded.

Broadened contacts with NATO will not affect Ukraine's relations with Russia and other CIS members, Kharchenko said.

Ukraine: Gorbulin Views Relations With Russia, PfP, N-Weapons

BR0904134696 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Apr 96 p 4

[Report on interview with Volodymyr Gorbulin, secretary of the Ukrainian National Security Service in Kiev, by Pilar Bonet; date not given: "Ukraine Seeks Friendship Treaty With Russia To Obtain Security Guarantees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The reunification fever characterizing the Russian election campaign — with President Boris Yeltsin signing close cooperation agreements with Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, and the Communists promising a return to the past — is a disquieting trend for the former Soviet republics. Ukraine believes that, under the circumstances, the signing of a Friendship Treaty with Russia "would substantially strengthen" the security guarantees Ukraine received from the nuclear powers when it gave up the nuclear weapons it had inherited from the USSR.

This is what Volodymyr Gorbulin, Ukrainian National Security Service secretary, who is also security adviser to President Leonid Kuchma, claimed in a conversation with EL PAIS. Gorbulin, 57, is one of Kuchma's closest assistants since both worked for the missile industry lobby.

This high-ranking official, who spent 30 years "creating strategic weapons" during the soviet period, was later one of the main promoters of Ukraine's denuclearization, precisely because — unlike the "populists" — he knew from his own experience that the new state did not fulfill the technical and security requirements to retain the missiles.

"The guarantees provided by the nuclear powers when Ukraine agreed to become a nuclear-free country are relative guarantees," Gorbulin indicated. In his opinion, the signing of a Friendship Treaty between Russia and Ukraine "would eliminate all the problems" and would provide a further guarantee "for Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence."

Ukraine is a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace [PfP] program, and Kiev wishes to take advantage of NATO Secretary General Javier Solana's visit on 15 April to put forward "new proposals aimed at activating Ukraine's participation in the PfP." Within this framework, "the most important thing this year will be the joint Russian-U.S.-Ukrainian maneuvers, which will show that the three countries are looking for mutual understanding and trust." Ukraine has carried out naval exercises with the United States, but never with Russia.

The entire Ukrainian political establishment has followed the signing of the treaty between Belarus and Russia with great interest, and, some, with alarm. Members of the most radical nationalist groups have taken part in the protests in Minsk against the policy of President Lukashenko, and they have strengthened their contacts with the Belarusian nationalists. Gorbulin is not in favor of drawing hasty conclusions. Concerning the draft of the treaty between Belarus and Russia, he said he had not discovered the "mechanisms" enabling it to be implemented, particularly with regard to the "common economic space."

According to Gorbulin, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which emerged precisely as an association of "fully independent states," is today at a crossroads following the agreements signed by Russia and

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Belarus, on the one hand, and Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, on the other. "There are two paths that can be followed. Some countries may move toward stronger integration and, eventually, to unification, and other countries may be forced to abandon this commonwealth."

Gorbulin compared the CIS to "a four-storey building whose structural walls have different thicknesses." The two maximum-thickness levels are those of the countries that are signatories to the recent agreements, then comes Russia's relationship with the Caucasus countries and, finally, its relationship with Turkmenistan, Moldavia, and Ukraine.

"In the circumstances, it is very difficult to speak of the CIS being solid, and I believe the CIS does not have good prospects in this respect," he indicated. Ukraine is interested in economic integration with Russia, because "in economic terms we cannot live without Russia."

Ukraine's renunciation of nuclear weapons "was the only correct thing to do, because we could not keep them from an economic point of view and we could not guarantee their security, and if we had retained the missiles, we would have become a serious threat to worldwide peace." According to the secretary of Ukraine's National Security Service, Kiev is punctiliously complying with its international obligations with regard to handing over its strategic missiles to Russia — a task which should be completed this year.

Sharing Out the Fleet

This week Boris Yeltsin postponed his official trip to Kiev for the sixth time. Moscow is arguing that such an important document cannot be signed without solving the issue of the location of the Russian naval bases in the harbor of Sevastopol. Gorbulin understands the fact that Yeltsin has postponed his visit due to political considerations on the eve of the presidential elections. "Anything to do with the sharing out of the Black Sea Fleet and, in particular, Sevastopol, will give rise to a negative reaction both in Ukraine and Russia, whatever we sign." Gorbulin wishes the Friendship Treaty and the agreement on the fleet to be tackled separately. "If we put everything into the same pot, like a bad cook, we will not get a good dish." "Unfortunately," he said, "Crimea and Sevastopol are trumps in a great political game."

Ukraine: Ukraine To Cut Funding of UN Peacekeeping Activities

LD0904200396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 9 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine will cut its contributions to the funding U.N. peacekeeping operations by four-fifths, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

At Ukraine's own request, backed by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and other European Union nations, a U.N. General Assembly committee transferred the country from Group B to Group C, which has lower funding requirements, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a press release. Ukraine's place in Group B will be taken by Greece, in an arrangement with Athens.

For three years, Kiev has been making energetic efforts to lessen Ukraine's financial burden in the United Nations, the release said. As a result the country's regular membership dues have gone down in the last two years from 1.87 percent to 1.14 percent in terms of the U.N. annual budget.

Ukraine: Marchuk, Vranitzky Discuss Cooperation, European Security

LD0904210796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2055 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VIENNA, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk and Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky discussed the development of bilateral relations and European security problems on Tuesday.

Marchuk arrived in Vienna to attend an international conference on the 1986 Chernobyl disaster which opened here on Tuesday.

The Ukrainian prime minister cited financial and economic difficulties which would inevitably arise after the shutdown of Chernobyl. It would be extremely difficult to solve the problem without international assistance, he stressed.

Ukraine attaches great importance to the forthcoming nuclear security summit opening in Moscow in April, he said.

More than 700 delegates, politicians and nuclear experts attended the Vienna conference which was sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the European Union Commission and the World Health Organisation.

The conference was opened with a minute of silence for the victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe, the worst nuclear accident in human history.

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Ukraine: Envoy Praises Slovenia's Economy, Urges Closer Relations

AU0904164896 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Apr 96 p 5

[Interview with Dmytro Tkach, Ukrainian ambassador to Hungary and Slovenia, by Anatoliy Martsynovskyy; place and date not given: "It Is Time To Get To Know the 'Slovene Miracle'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Slovenia and Croatia were first among the Yugoslav republics to achieve independence. However, whereas Croatia has gone through a lengthy war, Slovenia has come out of it unscathed — the Yugoslav People's Army made an attempt to invade the republic, but stopped its military actions 10 days later after being confronted with mass actions of protest and resistance on the part of Slovenians.

"On 11 December 1991, Ukraine recognized Slovenian independence, and a day later, Slovenia recognized Ukrainian independence. A little more than four years ago, diplomatic relations were established between the states. In 1995, I was appointed as ambassador and, on 6 September, submitted credentials to Milan Kucan, president of the Republic of Slovenia.

"Of course, the present level of relations does not suit either us or Slovenes. The contractual-legislative foundation is just being formed and the question of succeeding a part of the contractual legacy of the former FRY and the USSR is being looked into. Still, some steps have been made. Eight draft intergovernmental documents are now being considered at Ukrainian ministries and departments. They include extremely important accords on ways to avoid double taxation of incomes or property, on economic cooperation, and on promotion and mutual protection of investments. Besides, the Slovene side studies a draft accord proposed by us on terms for mutually canceling the visa requirement for citizens. A political dialogue is being established: Slovenia supported Ukraine in the admission to the Council of Europe and approves its joining the Central European Initiative [CEI]. Slovenia is a member of the CEI and of the Council of Europe, as well as of many other European and world organizations and one of the most likely candidates for membership of the European Union, NATO, and the Western European Union....

"With regard to the later, Slovenes have quite a number of reasons to justify admission to this organization. In particular, last year its gross domestic product [GNP] grew by 4.9 percent, the size of the GNP per capita of the population amounts to $9,270 (the highest index among all post-socialist countries), and its annual levels of inflation and unemployment amounted, respectively, to 8.6 and 7.4 percent. Recently, the Slovene tolar [monetary unit] became externally convertible, and competitiveness of Slovene products is indicated by the fact that almost 70 percent of Slovenia's foreign trade turnover falls on western European countries.

"The above figures are all the more impressive as one watches the country's everyday life and the standard of living of its population. The pharmaceutical, processing, and light industries are well developed there, as well as bus and helicopter building and tourism. In Ukraine, practically all of these industries are presently in a state of deep crisis, and we, therefore, find it logical to study both the Slovene experience in economic management and establish cooperation and production ties between enterprises. Transport is yet another promising trend. A Trans-European arterial road Lisbon-Kiev is now under construction. It will run across Slovenia, and Ukraine will, therefore, get a direct access to the great Adriatic Slovene port of Koper.

"Unfortunately, Ljubljana does not yet house a permanent Ukrainian mission, and this causes many inconveniences. It is true, though, that there already exists an accord on opening a temporary consular office in the Slovene capital. For the time being, Slovenes and Ukrainians living there receive services from the consular department of Ukraine's embassy in Hungary."

Ukraine: Kuchma Discusses Issues With Vietnam's Le Duc Anh

LD0904191896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma, who is paying an offocial visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City on 9 April.

As UNIAN learned at the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, on 8 April, during negotiations with Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh, Kuchma stressed that the main aim of his visit was to strengthen, expand, and diversify cooperation between Ukraine and Vietnam. The sides expressed interest in further development of bilateral cooperation. It was stressed that the dialogue between Kiev and Hanoi has become stable and is based on the tradition developed during the time of the USSR.

The Vietnamese president stressed that the visit of the president of Ukraine will become a new important stage in the development of the whole complex of Vietnamese-Ukrainian relations. He said that Vietnam is grateful to Ukraine for its contribution to tne struggle of the Vietnamese people for their independence and freedom and respects Ukraine for it.

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Special attention was paid to the existence of considerable reserves for upgrading cooperation. In this context special significance was attached the work of the Ukrainian-Vietnamese commission for trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation.

During the meeting it was agreed that the next meeting of the commission will be held in Kiev before July 1996. The attention of the Ukrainian side was drawn to the fact that cooperation between the two countries will benefit if Ukraine opens a plenipotentiary embassy in Vietnam.

During discussion of directions of possible cooperation, it was noted that there is considerable potential for this in the fields of power engineering, heavy machine-building, shipbuilding and repair, mining, the military technical sphere, training, and so on. It was stressed that Vietnam has a considerable number of highly qualified specialists who were educated in Ukraine, which is of significance for the modernization of the Vietnamese economy. The Vietnamese side expressed a desire to continue and speed up this cooperation.

During the negotiations between the presidents of Ukraine and Vietnam, the Ukrainian side expressed interest in studying the Vietnamese experience of national reforms, the introduction of modern methods of economic management, the democratization of society, and the creation of a law-governed state.

The sides also discussed a number of foreign policy issues of mutual interest. It was stated that the two countries have no differences and their positions coincide on the majority of international issues, which, in the opinion of the Vietnamese side, will ensure Ukraine's success in joining the political and economic integration processes in the Asia-Pacific region.

After the negotiations between the presidents of Ukraine and Vietnam, the sides signed a number of bilateral documents, in particular the treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries and agreements on double taxation, scientific and technical cooperation, and employment.

An agreement on cooperation between the Institute of International Relations of the Kiev Shevchenko University and the Diplomatic Institute of Vietnam was signed on the same day.

Ukraine: Investigation Underway on Supply of Planes to Colombia

WS1004085896 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0338 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 9. An investigation is proceeding of charges that Ukrainian manufacturers are supplying Colombian drug dealers with Antonov-32B aircraft, according to a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The charges originated in a Los Angeles Times article printed on the morning of Feb. 20, just hours before the arrival of President Leonid Kuchma in the United States — providing a nasty public relations dilemma for the Ukrainian government.

While Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Serheyev said Tuesday that "an inquiry into the incident is underway, he added that "we reject these unreasonable accusations."

"It is not our responsibility were sold planes make their way," he said. "If, let us say, a Mercedes carries some weapons, there is no reason to blame Daimler-Benz for providing equipment for unlawful weapons transportation."

National Affairs

Ukraine: 'Kharkov Council' Holds Session, Urges Restoration of USSR

WS1004084096 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 22-28 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Hordyeyev: "For Some Reason, the Public Has Become More Active"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is hardly possible that the Russian Duma's approval of the resolution denouncing the Belovezhskaya Accords was held on purpose at the same time the Kharkov Council had opened its session. Nevertheless, that was some coincidence indeed! Russian parliamentarians' actions became a kind of emotional doping for the participants in the third session of the Kharkov Council, held in the Palace of Labor on 16 March.

In the year or so of its existence, the Kharkov Council has become stronger and has greatly expanded the range of its influence. The third session was attended by delegates from 15 oblasts of Ukraine and by deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, and the Russian Federation Duma. The plenary session confirmed that the Kharkov Council had united the public and political forces advocating the creation of a union of equal nations. On the basis of this idea, the Kharkovites had managed to unify communists, socialists, the Party of Slav Unity, and the Civic Congress of Ukraine. We cannot rule out that namely this fact attracted the attention of some Belarusian and Russian lawmakers to the Kharkov Council's activities.

The delegates' speeches can be divided into two principal categories — those on foreign policy and those

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dealing exclusively with Ukraine's domestic problems. As for the latter category, I am ready to swear that Ukraine's sons and daughters from all the oblasts spoke about their motherland's troubles honestly and bitterly. The Belarusians and Russians supplemented those stories by reports on their electors' lives.

The speakers harshly criticized the policy of the powers-that-be. Kharkov has the right to do so, given that this city, whose industries could be the pride of any superpower, has been downgraded to the role of a stepson. Industrial enterprises have been abandoned by qualified specialists and are virtually paralyzed. It is too late now to think about the recreation of the economic potential; this potential should be created anew. Neither Kharkovites nor anybody else among the participants said a good word about the economic, political, or social activities of the Ukrainian president and his retinue. The draft constitution was trashed completely, and the president's attempts to force its adoption was assessed by the delegates as his desire to expeditiously lay the legal groundwork both for his course and his "accomplishments."

Three resolutions passed by the Kharkov Council expressed both the participants' attitude toward the administration ("'No' to Kuchma and his constitution!") and toward integration with Russia ("We should sign a wide-ranging treaty on cooperation and strengthening of ties with Russia").

At a meeting held the next day to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 17 March 1991 USSR referendum, the three resolutions were "ratified" by almost 8,000 people gathered in Liberty Square, which is still the largest square in Europe, but no longer carries its maiden name of Dzerzhinskiy Square.

The participants in the meeting greeted the Russian Duma resolution with even greater enthusiasm than the resolutions of the Kharkov Council, despite the fact that for two days the media had been trying to hammer into people's heads that the Duma resolution was nothing but a political trick on the part of Russia's leftists, made on the eve of the presidential election.

Russian Duma Deputy Anatoliy Chekhoyev, deputy chairman of the Committee for CIS Issues and Ties With Compatriots, said to DONETSKIY KRYAZH: "This is not a political trick. Those presidents who have hurried to cameras and microphones [to criticize the Duma resolution] are afraid of reaction in their own states more than they are afraid of the Duma decision. By the way, they rendered us a good service by raising such a hue and cry. Yeltsin and his adviser Georgiy Satarov have appeared on the radio several times. The Russian president even gave an interview to Mayak Radio for the first time since he became president. Other presidents, too, started to rush."

What was the people's reaction? VECHERNIY KHARKOV reporters polled 360 people on 14 March and asked them the same question which had been asked during the 1991 referendum: "Do you advocate the preservation of the USSR in the form of a remodeled federation of equal sovereign republics which will guarantee the observance of rights and freedoms of citizens of all nationalities?" Around 82 percent of respondents, including equal numbers of workers, scientists, and students, and even buyers and sellers in the Kharkov market gave a positive answer to this question. It is even more significant that 43 out of 50 officers who were asked the same question right at the gates of their Kharkov-based military unit decisively declared their readiness to start serving the Soviet Union "as early as today."

Whose standpoint do the presidents represent, then?

Ukraine: Lvov Rally Supports Chechen, Belarus Independence Struggle

LD0904180696 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 96

[No video available]

[FBIS Translated Text] A rally attended by several thousand people has been held in Lvov in support of the fight of the Chechen and Belarusian people for their independence. The participants stated that chauvinistic Russian forces have started an offensive with the silent agreement of the world community. First Chechnya, then Belarus fell victim to the imperial appetite. Ukraine may be next if the Supreme Council continues to be slow in adopting the constitution because of the right forces who still dream of seeing our state in the embrace of the elder brother, warned the participants.

Ukraine: Moroz Suffering High Blood Pressure

LD0904192696 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — It is quite probable that OLeksandr Moroz, head of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, will not be able to resume his duties before 17 April. This assumption has been made by Valentyn Ulanov, secretary of the Commission for Legal Affairs and Law Enforcement. He said that Oleksandr Moroz has not suffered a heart attack or had an apoplectic stroke, but that he has high blood pressure in conjunction with coronary deficiency; doctors categorically forbid anyone with such a diagnosis to work. Vitaliy Melnychuk, an adviser to the head of the Supreme Council,

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told our correspondent that the condition of Oleksandr Moroz has somewhat improved, but he is not allowed visitors yet.

Meanwhile, the faction of the People's Movement [Rukh] is planning to put forward very soon an initiative on including in the agenda of the meeting of the Supreme Council on 16 April the question of no confidence in Oleksandr Moroz. According to Rukh faction member Volodymyr Kulinich, 150 signatures have been collected in support of this initiative.

Ukraine: SBU Counterintelligence Official Interviewed

WS1004073096 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 3 Apr 96 pp 1,9

[Interview with Yuriy Samoylenko, Ukrainian Security Service deputy chief for counterintelligence issues, by Oleksandr Ilchenko and Oleksandr Korchynskyy; place and date not given: "We Have Something To Protect. However, We Should Not Look for Spies Where There Are None...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last year, according to the Ukrainian special services' data, 75 foreign delegations visited leading Zaporizhzhya-based enterprises equipped with modern technologies: Motor-Sich, Iskra, Radioprybor, or the Progress design bureau. Additionally, as our Zaporizhzhya correspondent **Valeriy Polyushko** has reported, referring to statements by General Mykola Shama, chief of the Ukrainian Security Service [SBU] Zaporizhzhya Oblast Directorate, the delegations included intelligence officers as well. Our special services, however, prevented leaks of information. There was also an attempt to influence our power engineering sector by business circles from a leading Western country in the interests of foreign companies, the general emphasized.

And what is the counterintelligence situation in Ukraine? This is the topic of our conversation with General **Yuriy Samoylenko**, SBU deputy chief in charge of counterintelligence issues.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Yuriy Pavlovych, what is the main task of the Ukrainian counterintelligence service? Has it changed since the Soviet era?

[Samoylenko] Of course. When the Soviet Union existed, there was the "Iron Curtain," and other countries struggled to obtain information about the USSR through their agents, because it was hard to do so in a legal manner. The situation has changed, but there is still interest in Ukraine, given its geopolitical location. We understand this, and have agreed to exchange objective information. We also understand that it is quite overtly collected by embassy employees, journalists, etc. Nonetheless, Ukraine has its secrets which we should protect, and we do protect them.... However, there is a new approach: we should prevent crimes. It should not be concealed that previously we sometimes tried to "raise" a spy and then expose him and make a lot of noise....

The motives of those who try to sell our secrets abroad have changed as well. In the past, this was often done for ideological reasons. Currently, most often this is done for profit. We call this "initiative espionage" [initsiatyvnyy shpionazh], when an individual is not recruited by a foreign special service, but is himself eager to offer his services. Last year 11 such attempts were intercepted, and certain materials are still being studied....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Have any cases ended up in court?

[Samoylenko] Literally, we just finished investigating a leak of secret information. An expert has concluded that the leaked information was a state secret (and some materials went abroad). Therefore, a criminal case will be opened according to Article 67 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code and, as a result, a trial will be held. We are investigating two other similar cases.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Anyway, are spies tried in our country or not?

[Samoylenko] The latest case that ended with a sentence was the case of Tkachenko, antiaircraft missile school officer, which began in 1993 and ended in 1994. Let me recall that this was a classical case of espionage. Tasked by a foreign intelligence service, Tkachenko received a camera from an individual without any citizenship to photograph the documentation of a secret antiaircraft missile system. We detained both spies while they were exchanging information. They were sentenced to eight and six years in prison, respectively. In general, I believe that if a case ends in a court, this is a failure of the counterintelligence service. After all, if there is something for which to sentence someone, this means that information leaked....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Do your subordinates keep an eye on foreigners in Ukraine?

[Samoylenko] Of course not. Even if we wanted to, we would not have enough forces and possibilities.... Moreover, this is pointless. Nevertheless, we have certain operational achievements, for example, with regard to attempts to recruit some Ukrainian specialists.... We are monitoring what represents interest to foreign special services in our country. If we learn about this, we will understand what we should protect.

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[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] So, it seems that recently you have not arrested anyone for espionage (if one ignores the episode with the Chinese citizens, which was not completely clear)?

[Samoylenko] We arrest people if there is something for which to arrest them for. This year, we detained at a customs office a businessmen who tried to take abroad two diskettes and 130 pages of handwritten text. An expert's examination showed that the contents of these materials did not represent a state secret, but it was a collective intellectual property of a company, at which the information was sold....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Does this mean that there are still some industrial secrets in Ukraine, despite the crisis?

[Samoylenko] Undoubtedly, there are such secrets, and in the West there are special funds and programs for acquiring them in our country and sending them abroad. We, for example, have certain data about the Center of Applied Technologies in the United States, whose main goal is to obtain information about our leading achievements.... Similar centers exist in a number of other countries. So people who think that all secrets remained in Russia after the USSR's collapse are wrong. I will repeat, we have something to protect.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Can Magadan [site of many labor camps and prisons in the Soviet Union] be seen from the window of the deputy chief's office?

[Samoylenko] I understand your question and its real meaning (laughs).... Magadan... We have our own special prison....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] We have visited it. We know about it....

[Samoylenko] We do not need any Magadan. Believe me, we do not strive to fill up our special prison....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Are any of your "clients" in it, so to speak?

[Samoylenko] Yes.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Does it happen that high-ranking officials get in touch with you bypassing the SBU chief, and if it does, is this not a violation of subordination?

[Samoylenko] Yes, this happens. This is normal, and it is not a violation. As the deputy chief, I am in charge of issues which I have already listed, and if the president, the prime minister, or the National Security Council secretary have a question falling within my competence and want to receive exhaustive information, they naturally telephone me....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Do you later report this to [SBU Chief] General Radchenko?

[Samoylenko] Of course! We are military people. If I receive some instructions, I unconditionally report this to higher leadership.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] By the way, where is one of your former higher leaders — General Khomich (who was first shunted aside, and then dismissed from the office of SBU deputy chairman in connection with an incident at the Pivdenmash [Southern machine-building plant]) currently?

[Samoylenko] As far as I know, he is currently at his dacha.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] It is good that he is at his dacha. But what is his situation in general? Does he remain in the SBU reserves?

[Samoylenko] No, he is on a leave due from 1995.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Have Khomich's duties been automatically transferred to his successor — General Skybynetskyy?

[Samoylenko] No. General Prystayko will now perform these duties.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] What kind of issues are these?

[Samoylenko] These include the protection of territorial integrity and some other issues.

Although the time scheduled for our conversation quickly ended, we could not but ask some personal questions concerning Yuriy Pavlovych himself. The general did not dodge them.

[Samoylenko] I was born in 1944 in the city of Svobodnyy, Amur Oblast. My father was a serviceman, and worked in the special services. In 1957, our family moved to Ukraine, to Dnipropetrovsk, where I graduated from a school and the chemical technological institute. I worked at a tire plant, and then at the Pivdenmash. I also worked as a technical college teacher. When I was in middle age, in 1974, I was offereda change in my work, so to speak. I chose counterintelligence right from the beginning and I have always stood aloof from ideological issues. I went all the way from a special agent to deputy chief of the KGB Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Directorate. Following this, I was appointed first deputy chief of the Main Counterintelligence Directorate. Later, I became the chief of military counterintelligence.... I have been the SBU deputy chief since November 1995.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Could you say something more about yourself?

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[Samoylenko] What else can I say? I am married. My daughter lives in Dnipropetrovsk. My granddaughter is three years old. Her picture is under the glass on my desk....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] You look very fit. Do you like sports?

[Samoylenko] How can I explain it to you... Unfortunately, I have currently reduced my sport activity to jogging and push-ups.... Five years ago, I was on vacation in Yalta, and ran from our spa to the Swallow Nest and back. This was 14 kilometers one way. I had worked up a sweat, and an elderly man looked at me and said: "Sir, one must protect one's body at our age, and not train it...." In general, sports and movement mean life....

Ukraine: Liquidation of Crimea Ammunition Depots Continues

WS1004095496 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 4 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ammunition Depot in Kerch Will Be Liquidated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Kerch (Crimea), another stage of the liquidation of the old ammunition depot "Small Fortress" has begun. VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI wrote about the need to do so in the article "Explosives Under Kerch" on 22 December 1995. As journalists have been told by Yevhen Melnyk, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council Commission for Military Issues and Security, the "Small Fortress" depot has been cordoned off, and inhabitants of nearby houses are being moved out. It is expected that engineering work will end in three months.

The "Small Fortress" has acted as an ammunition depot since the beginning of the 20th century. The liquidation of old ammunition (70,000 pieces) began as far back as 1964. In 1985, the work was continued, and 5,500 pieces of ammunition and 230,000 cartridges were destroyed, and in 1990 — another 4,800 pieces of ammunition and 180,000 cartridges.

As Yevhen Melnyk has reported, similar work will be carried out at the "Big Fortress" ammunition depot, which until recently was used by the Black Sea Fleet and military units deployed in Crimea. Around 1,000 carloads of ammunition is stored in the "Big Fortress" depot. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's leadership is conducting negotiations with their Russian colleagues on joint financing of the work.

As Yevhen Melnyk claims, chemical weapons are not stored in either depot.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Kiev To Repay Over $1.2 Billion in Foreign Debt

WS1004084696 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0605 GMT 10 Apr 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV. In 1996 Ukraine will be required to pay $1.266 billion for its foreign debts, UKRINFORM reported on the basis of information from the foreign debt department within Ukraine's Finance Ministry.

Experts from the Finance Ministry believe that due to the lower annual libor [London Interbank Offered Rate] rate in relation to the U.S. dollar Ukraine will be able to save close to $10 million on payments made now. Agreements regarding Ukraine's main debts provide for a loan rate of libor + 1 percent. Since the beginning of the year the libor rate has decreased approximately 2 percent and on March 27 the annual libor rate per U.S. dollar was 5.26 percent.

Ukraine: Premier Explains Overdue Wages; Deputy Blames IMF

WS1004084596 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0605 GMT 10 Apr 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV. Speaking April 9 before Parliament Ukraine's Minister of Finance Petro Hermanchuk said that the main reason for non-payment of wages for workers in businesses subsidized by the budget is the lack of funds in the national and local budgets as well as the fact that budgets on all levels have not received revenues related to manufacturing.

According to Mr. Hermanchuk, wages owed for the first three months of this year grew in proportion to the sum of unpaid budget revenues. According to preliminary estimates, in the first quarter of 1996 KBV [karbovantsi] 150 trillion in planned revenues were not paid into budgets at all levels. Mr. Hermanchuk believes that another reason for the wage payment crisis is the illegal use of funds and theft. Due to these reasons, in 1995 and in the first three months of 1996 more than KBV15 trillion was lost.

The head of the parliamentary commission for social policies and labor, Yuriy Buzduhan, also speaking before Parliament, said that he believes non-payment of wages has resulted from the implementation of recommendations made by the International Monetary Fund, specifically the IMF's recommended 8:10 ratio

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between the growth index for wages and that for inflation. He said that while on 1 January 1995 the debt for non-payment of wages was KBV3.5 trillion (or 7 percent of the total sum of all wages), by 1 January 1996 it grew 25 times and reached KBV85 trillion. Mr. Buzduhan pointed out that since 1991 the government has cut the percentage of wages within the gross national product by half: in 1991 Ukraine's GNP was $117 billion and the percentage of wages was 58 percent while in 1995 the GNP decreased to $45 million and wages were not more than 31 percent.

Commenting on these two speeches for INFOBANK, the head of the parliamentary budgetary commission, Mykola Azarov, said that more and more often MP's carry out their job by listening to the government's report and then adjourning without approving any decision. He said it would be more advisable to invite members of the government to meetings of parliamentary commissions in order to be able to put forth concrete proposals for Parliament's consideration.

Ukraine: Kuchma Vetoes 'Controversial' Advertising Bill

WS1004085696 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0338 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 9. President Leonid Kuchma vetoed a controversial advertising bill Saturday, shortly before departing over the weekend for a trip to Vietnam and Indonesia, Zoya Sharikova, chief consultant to Parliament's Mass Media Committee, told INTELNEWS on Tuesday.

The controversial law, which mandates a 15 percent advertising tax and places a ban on all tobacco and alcohol advertising, was approved by Parliament in March.

Mykola Fartushnyy, chief consultant of the presidential press service, said that the president has sent the bill back to Parliament with recommendations that its tax provision be eliminated and its tobacco and alcohol ban be watered down.

A source in Parliament's Legal Department confirmed that the recommendations were received on Tuesday.

Fartushniy said the 15 percent tax violates tax legislation and contradicts a pledge by Ukrainian Parliament not to impose new taxes. He also said that Kuchma called upon the tobacco and alcohol ad bans be changed to restrictions on the hours the advertisements could be broadcast, and urged other measures aimed at curbing advertising aimed at youth.

Such measures were contained in the bill originally proposed by the Mass Media Committee, but were changed during parliamentary debate.

Deputy Vitaliy Shevchenko of Mass Media Committee told INTELNEWS that the committee will "positively" react to these recommendations.

According to Fartushnyy, the president also recommended axing article 6 of the law, which stated that advertising should be made only in the state (Ukrainian) language.

Kalyna Hrushetskyy, local managing director for the Leo Burnett advertising firm, said "we are very happy that the president and his administration have understood that this law needs to be reviewed."

According to Hrushetskyy, it very good that the president understood that there are more important factors than health — the factor of economic development.

Hrushetskyy said the presidential recommendations satisfied all demands of Ukraine's media and advertising industries.

Industry members have estimated that the tobacco/alcohol ban may cost the nation up to $400 million in advertising profits, while the Ukrainian tobacco industry would receive $80 million in foreign investments if the law is shot down.

A source in the Rothmans company told INTELNEWS that all tobacco companies are satisfied with Kuchma's veto, calling it a "decisive step," which coincides with provisions of a Code on Advertisement of Tobacco Goods, voluntarily signed between tobacco companies and the Ukrainian government in 1994 and enacted in 1995.

The code allows tobacco advertising, but with some limits.

Ukraine: State Property Fund Details Pace of Privatization

WS1004084796 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0605 GMT 10 Apr 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV. At a briefing held April 9 Ukraine's State Property Fund announced that during the first three months of this year the level of planned privatization for the first quarter of 1996 was exceeded. Small privatization was carried out at 103.6 percent (5,104 businesses were privatized compared to 4,928 planned) while large privatization exceeded planned levels by 6.4 percent (941 businesses were privatized compared to 884 planned).

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According to the State Property fund almost all oblasts exceeded their planned levels of privatization for the first quarter of the year. The leaders in small privatization were the Lvov (131 percent of that planned), Zakarpattya [Carpathian] (121 percent), Donetsk (119 percent), Vinnytsya (119 percent), Odessa (115 percent) and Cherkasy (115 percent) oblasts. With regard to large privatization the most privatization took place in the Chernihiv (122 percent), Zhytomyr (121 percent), Kherson (120 percent), Rivne (120 percent) and Lugansk (117 percent) Oblasts.

In 1992-96, 27,297 small businesses were privatized and 7,308 medium and large businesses began the process of privatization, 3,800 of which have been almost completely privatized (70 percent or more). Small privatization is almost complete in Uzhhorod (99 percent of all businesses subject to privatization have been privatized), Lugansk (95 percent), Cherkasy (93 percent), Ternopil (88 percent), Sumy (84 percent), Lvov (83 percent) and Mykolayiv (81 percent).

Ukraine: Program Aims To Reform Power Industry

LD0904204496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Galina Nekrasova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LVOV, April 9 (Itar-Tass) - The Ukrainian government discussed a programme aimed at reforming the nation's power and industry complex, Itar-Tass learnt from sources in the Cabinet.

The programme is designed to improve safety standards at 15 generating units of Ukraine's five nuclear power stations with a total capacity of 13.8 million kilowatts.

The necessary documents were submitted to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the sources said.

Ukraine used to be one of the world's leading nations in terms of electric power generation, following the United States, Japan, Canada, Germany, France and Britain.

However, after the collapse of the Soviet Union the country's electric power system became worn-out. Thus, several units should be shut down in 5 to 6 years because of wear and tear.

Ukraine has been pinning hopes on the development of nuclear power plants which generated up to 37 per cent of electricity in 1995.

Ukraine's state Nuclear Control Agency put forward a plan worth 22 million ECU [European Currency Units] for consideration by the European Commission. The agency received 50 million ECU in 1992-1995 as part of the Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent states (TACIS) programme.

The TACIS-92 programme worth 14 million ECU, which was recently adopted, aims to improve safety standards at the country's nuclear power plants.

Three plants received new equipment, which minimises the risk of a catastrophe.

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Belarus

Belarus: Premier on Economy, Union, Reforms

WS0904134296 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Mar 96 p 6

[Interview with Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir by Pavel Sheremet; place and date not given: "The Government Is Going To Act Tougher"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir is becoming an increasingly frequent target for criticism on the part of both the president and parliament. Rumors about his possible resignation are circulating pretty actively. But undeterred, the premier continues to work as usual. Moreover, the stronger the pressure on the government and the more unpleasant THE rumors, the more relaxed is the head of the Cabinet of Ministers. Shortly before his departure to Belgium, Mikhail Chyhir gave our correspondent an interview, explaining his position on the key issues of Belarusian economic development.

[Sheremet] The government has been operating for almost two years now. Opinions about the current economic situation are diametrically opposed. Some people believe that a period of difficult stabilization is coming, while others contend that the crisis will grow even more. What is your opinion about the economic situation in the country?

[Chyhir] Of course, there is no growing crisis. What is happening right now is a continuation of the price reform.

Another thing depressing the economy is the fact that prices for raw materials and components delivered from Russia are steadily growing. This is why our economy is no longer capable of working efficiently and generating profits; there are too many workers producing too many low-quality products.

We are presently faced with the question: What now? We have lived through the winter, and life became easier in terms of fuel costs. So, now we are going to act tougher.

At present, industries, concerns, ministries, and institutions are completing their annual reports. The Cabinet of Ministers will review all of those reports, revealing a great deal of shortcomings, first of all those connected with production costs. We will try to somehow force enterprises to reduce costs. After the review of the past years' performance, I think we will plan specific events for enterprises aimed at trimming costs.

[Sheremet] Any economic reform consists of three elements — macroeconomic stabilization, changes at the micro-level, and reconstruction of the entire economy. In which of those three sectors do you think we have managed to achieve the greatest success? Where do you think we should concentrate our efforts to move forward?

[Chyhir] It stands to reason that we have been more successful at the macroeconomic level. On the other hand, no positive changes will happen at the microeconomic level until the macroeconomy is stabilized.

The biggest lag is, of course, in the sphere of economic reconstruction. This perhaps can be explained by our legacy. After all, we grew up in the command economy. Now, different times have come, but people ready to think and resolve problems in new economic conditions are nowhere to be seen. You have to observe, analyze, and determine your position: Why go to work for 400-500,000 [rubles] [R] when you can earn this much faster and on your own elsewhere? Frankly speaking, we, the president and government, do not yet support the business enterprise being displayed by people. [as published] It is hard to say when it will happen. But we have already created the basis for that. You, the press, could advertise business activities more actively.

[Sheremet] That is exactly what we are doing. Today, however, more than advertising, business circles need protection, including protection from the state, because measures that the government and the president are undertaking to regulate the economy are largely of an administrative nature. Do you not think that such methods are very ineffective?

[Chyhir] One should use what can be used at a particular stage. Economically, any enterprise manager today is free. Let him give his employees decent pay, let him not fire his people massively — no one will rebuke him. But he keeps asking for help. This is why we tell him: "If you maintain your production volume, we will consider a plan to assist you." But if he maintains the labor force, manufacturing only 40-50 percent of the 1990 level, we are forced to apply administrative methods. All this, however, is in combination with unrestrained economic freedom. This is why I do not think that this is a return to the administrative economic system.

[Sheremet] The entire past year was full of debates on privatization. Its suspension is the main reason for the criticism voiced by the IMF. The president promised to take that issue under personal control. It is clear that no major breakthrough in our economic reforms is possible without progress in this sphere. Today even banks, being major economic creditors, are beginning to pressure their debtors, demanding the right to participate in management. However, there are no mechanisms for that. How much longer will this uncertain situation go on — not only in the privatization sphere, but in the new

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organizational relations among enterprises, investors, and the government?

[Chyhir] Banks are the leverage that should have a permanent and positive impact on the economy. But banks are not performing this role. I keep saying that I will always support them. For example, an enterprise director comes to a bank for credits.... Did anyone obligate him to "work based on the state wage scales, cut the labor force, and launch some additional production lines?" No one did. Bankers lament their problems, although a lot depends on them. I noticed only once [a banker taking the initiative]; I learned that S.A. Kastsyuchenka, chairman of the Priorbank, demanded that the number of pensioners employed at the MAZ [Minsk Truck Plan] be reduced. This may look pretty inhumane, but what else can you do? Certain steps must be made to keep the MAZ going.

As for privatization, it surely has to be conducted as quickly as possible. This particularly applies to small businesses. [Retail] trade and services should be given to private hands. The state should not be too concerned about those spheres, as they will develop and strengthen on their own. Private initiative here has strong potential.

The president accepts options for reforming primarily large enterprises. Progress should be achieved in this field, too. Without changes, our "Korall" will not work efficiently, either. Its technological level is way lower than that necessary to meet all international and European standards. Last year, it operated thanks to the R50 billion from the national budget. This year, also, it will not be able to work normally. The plant is in need of a hefty state investment, something that the state is not in a position to do. This is the reason why enterprise needs to be restructured. Otherwise, that enterprise will die, just as the "Horizont" [television plant] is dying today.

[Sheremet] Which also needs $200 million... But do you not think that our industrial giants have come to the line beyond which normal work is not possible without some dramatic changes, a surgical operation on their organization, ownership type, financial procedures, and technology? Or, are there some internal reserves left?

[Chyhir] Each enterprise calls for an individual approach. In some areas, the administrative system can justify itself and the enterprise can continue to work. Some time ago, there were a lot of problems at the Byelaz [truck] plant. Now, it is working more or less steadily; it has found markets for its products, and marketing procedures are carried out there in a different way.

The electronics sphere should not be written off, either. After all, the Vitsebsk Television Plant is still operating. I think that the tractor plant will work normally this year. If the contract with Pakistan is finalized, the decision regarding the plant should be positive.

Things are more complicated as far as the MAZ is concerned. Neither privatization, nor transforming it into a joint-stock company will help here, only hard work. Now they are conducting negotiations to assemble some other automobiles to keep afloat the main production. The situation will improve if this plan succeeds. Besides, the MAZ has a competitor — the KAMAZ [a Russian truck plant], which receives support and hefty investments. It is natural that it will remain a better product for some time yet.

Anyway, you cannot say that privatization and share-issuing are good measures everywhere.

[Sheremet] Our relations with Russia have been debated for a long time now. As a matter of fact, they may as well be stopped now because of present-day realities. Nevertheless, the warning that we have different economic interests is slowly beginning to be borne out. There are recurrent conflicts with Russian customs and government structures fueled by the fact that Belarus is trying to pursue an independent tariff policy.

Now they have already started to say that our economic integration will run beyond all conceivable boundaries, making us part of the single economic organism. While five years ago our and Russian banks, as well as Belarusian and Russian industrial enterprises, had similar potential, the situation has dramatically changed. Will this entry not prove too complicated for the Belarusian economy? Will we not dissolve in the Russian interests?

[Chyhir] No one should have the slightest doubt that we received a big advantage from the customs union [with Russia]. We import from Russia almost $1.5 billion worth of oil and gas. To pay for this oil and gas, we need to deliver a required amount of material resources. The commodity turnover has been growing ever since the customs union was established. And all the shortcomings, misunderstandings, and small conflicts are only too natural. Just look at how many economic "wars" are being waged by the EU. It is a normal thing, and this is how it should be. One should not regard it as an unresolvable problem.

Suppose someone in Belarus or Russia offers assistance in some sphere or minor abatements to a company which will, let us say, support the national sport in Russia. We have such an organization. Our reasoning is: Since you made an exception, we will make an exception, too. But one should not view it as a tragedy. If both of us

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assume a firm commitment not to make any exceptions anywhere, and both sides stick to this commitment, all problems will be removed automatically.

There is another aspect here. Of course, Russia and Belarus do not always have the same interests as far as customs duties are concerned. I would say that Russia accepted our proposals regarding customs tariffs on some goods. I think that you can always reach agreement in this matter. However, you should not expect that relations between two states will always be ideal. It is an ordinary, normal process, especially on the eve of elections.

[Sheremet] They are talking about economic unity now. Will we not lose more than we get because of that?

[Chyhir] Whether we will lose or receive depends on us — the president and the Supreme Soviet. Integration is necessary, and it is the undisputable truth. We, however, agreed at the talks that "sovereign independent states will be preserved."

[Sheremet] By late March or early April, you and Ms. Vinnikova [Belarusian National Bank chairman], by the president's order, are supposed to prepare a whole range of documents concerning the banking sphere, including such issues as indexing shares [indeksatsiya aktsiy] held by legal persons, increasing the state's stake in commercial banks, and increasing state control over commercial banks. Could you explain your position, the government's position, on those issues? How advanced is the banking reform?

[Chyhir] I will never sign any documents nationalizing banks in the form of expropriation. On the other hand, it would be a good thing if the state stake in those banks grows.

Banks cannot always adjust themselves to the situation. I was also shocked when I learned that the stock exchange manager earns R30-40 million monthly. What does this mean? This is the reason why that stock exchange will no longer be fully supervised by banks. Inability to use valid laws creates the need to toughen control.

Control will be toughened; specialists are already working on this task. If a bank is unprofitable, its employees should be paid according to the government wagescale. There should be no high wages or bonuses. If a bank, having no money for investments, starts to build offices and live on others, we will take those investments away from it based on the uncompleted construction regulation, or find some other ways to do it.

Now about increasing the state's stake. You can do it in a civilized manner, revaluating the fixed capital and putting the difference into an authorized fund. Or you could call for an additional subscription, offering preferential conditions for state enterprises. You can also index initial contributions to authorized funds of enterprises according to a higher scale, which would increase their stake. This, however, must be done legally.

[Sheremet] Any change of power and creation of a new parliament provoke reshuffles in the government. The Cabinet of Ministers head has been recently criticized by both the president and the state administration. Do you feel any external pressure being currently exerted on the government that could spur your resignation?

[Chyhir] Personnel reshuffles are a normal and natural process. If they benefit the state, they should only be welcomed. My personal position and the opinion of government members: We do what we think is right, ignoring what someone wrote or said about us. We are not conducting any fights.

We saw fit to conduct a price, I would say, revolution in Belarus, and we did it. Was there less criticism when the president returned to the country and was amazed how high prices had jumped? There was several times more criticism at that time. Of course, the president is the president; we implement his orders. His most recent order about wages may be anti-scientific, but we will implement it. The president promised that that move was his last one.

As for the administration head, Mikhail Uladzimiravich [Myasnikovich] is a Cabinet of Ministers member. If he criticizes certain spheres, we will instruct him to bring order into them. Criticism is a good and necessary thing. But we have the following position: We should do what we see fit. This is why I feel comfortable also in parliament.

Belarus: Lukashenka Warns of 'Appropriate Measures' Against NATO

AU0904140896 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 6 Apr 96 p 8

[Interview with Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by Jiri Doubrava in Minsk; date not given: "The Belarussian President Rejects NATO Enlargement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — Belarus, which signed an agreement this week on forming a union with Russia, will by all accounts respond to the Czech Republic's possible admission into NATO. Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, in an interview for MLADA FRONTA DNES, did not say what the response would be, but he implied quite openly that he would not like this.

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[Doubrava] What do you think of the possible entry by some Central European countries into the Alliance?

[Lukashenka] Our point of view is extremely negative.

[Doubrava] What would happen if nuclear weapons were deployed on the territory of these countries?

[Lukashenka] I have said this recently to Polish President Kwasniewski and I will also say it to your President Havel when I meet him: We will take appropriate measures.

[Doubrava] What kind of measures?

[Lukashenka] Appropriate ones, according to how the situation develops. I do not want to make our people nervous; it is too early for that.

[Doubrava] Will Belarussian and Russian soldiers now have a joint command?

[Lukashenka] This was considered, but we came to the conclusion that it is unnecessary. The two armies are already cooperating well. This does not mean, however, that our troops would go to Chechnya; the Russians have sufficient forces to be able to resolve this problem themselves. Our task is to defend the Union from the west.

[Doubrava] Could the experiences of the economic reforms in the Central European countries be of use to Belarus?

[Lukashenka] I will answer you with a question. Why have they replaced the government in Poland? Moreover, in your country, there were no giant enterprises interlinked with industry on one-sixth of the earth's surface.

[Doubrava] What is the main reason for the agreement between Belarus and Russia?

[Lukashenka] This is not a new Soviet Union. Belarus and Russia want to be together because this is what the people want. The view that small is attaching itself to large is incorrect. We each have one vote. We will not be foreigners to one another and Belarussians will be able to study without difficulty at universities in Moscow or St. Petersburg. We have tractors and trucks that Russia needs. And, we, in turn, need raw materials.

[Doubrava] What do you think of the demonstrations that have taken place in Minsk against the Belarussian agreement?

[Lukashenka] I have just issued an order that everything be investigated carefully. These were not young people; these were children. Whoever sent them there was hiding round the corner. I personally issued an instruction that the militia intervene against the demonstrators as mildly as possible. Of course, we will take steps against those who sent these children and then hid themselves.

[Doubrava] Whom do you prefer in the presidential elections that are to take place in Russia in June?

[Lukashenka] The Russian man. I do not want to speak on behalf of Yeltsin or anyone else. That would be interference.

Belarus: Lukashenka Proposes World Environment Protection Program

LD0904181596 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The working visit by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to Austria ends today. Our special correspondent Svyatlana Ilyushenka has just been on the line. Here is her report from Vienna:

[Begin Ilyushenka recording] During the visit, there have been business meetings which should produce positive results in the development of Belarusian-Austrian mutu»' relations and in their invigoration. Tackling specific questions and discussion of various aspects of economic and social life were the focus of attention at the meetings and talks between the delegation from Belarus and the leaders of Austrian firms, which took place yesterday.

Today's day started with a protocol meeting between the President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Mr [Hans] Blix, director general of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Authority]. This meeting preceded the opening of an international forum: Ten years After Chernobyl. Politicians, world-famous scientists, and specialists from various spheres engaged in atomic energy are attending the conference. A report was delivered to this representative forum by President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Once again, he recalled the enormous losses — moral and material — which our republic suffered as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. The head of state emphasized that Chernobyl is a problem for Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station affected the whole world.

The president of Belarus proposed continuing the search for new strategic directions in the field of interstate cooperation on this problem. He proposed the creation of a single interstate center to combine efforts of scientists from all over the world. The funding would be provided on equal, mutually advantageous conditions. The Belarusian president proposed founding a world protection fund which would accumulate part of the incomes of atomic engineering and energy to implement ecological programs. [passage omitted]

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Today, President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka had a meeting with Federal Chancellor of Austria Franz Vranitzky. They discussed joint Belarusian-Austrian projects, the opening of credit lines for Belarus, and other aspects of bilateral cooperation. Economic questions were also at the centre of attention at a meeting between President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka and leaders of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and of business and financial circles.

These were the highlights of the working visit to Austria by the Belarusian delegation headed by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. This is Svyatlana Ilyushenka from Vienna, specially for the Pastfaktum program. [end recording]

Belarus: Foreign Minister Ends PRC Visit, Arrives in Mongolia

WS1004085296 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0605 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An official two-day visit by Belarusian foreign minister Uladzimir Syanko to Mongolia started on April 9. As was reported by BELAPAN earlier, before the visit to Mongolia, the chief of the Belarusian foreign office stayed in China.

According to the Press and Information Department of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while meeting President Jiang Zemin Uladzimir Syanko handed him a personal message by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka which contained an invitation to arrive in Belarus on an official visit. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. During the negotiations the Chinese leader pointed out that relations between China and Belarus are developing successfully, and that the two countries have something they could learn from each other.

During a meeting with the premier of the Chinese State Council, Li Peng, Mr Syanko told him about the political and economic situation in Belarus, and about the development of Russian-Belarusian integration in the context of the treaty signed in Moscow on April 2. Li Peng handed the Belarusian foreign minister a invitation to Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir to visit China in the second half of this year. He pointed out that China is interested in Belarus' participation in the international exhibition which is to take place in Beijing in 1997.

Belarusian-Chinese relations were defined as stable and successful during negotiations between Mr Syanko and the Chinese foreign minister. In the parties' opinion, the visit of President Lukashenka to China and Premier Li Peng's visit to Belarus last year were conducive to this. The negotiations resulted in the signing of a protocol on cooperation and information exchange between the foreign ministries. Mr Syanko invited his Chinese counterpart to visit Belarus at most convenient time.

Mr Syanko made a speech in the Chinese foreign office's diplomatic academy, and visited the Beijing-Jeep motor-car enterprise.

Belarus: Supreme Soviet Delegation Begins Visit to Moscow

WS1004122396 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As our correspondent has reported from the Russian capital, an official visit to Moscow by a Belarusian Supreme Soviet delegation began with a traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier in the Kremlin.

Following this, a meeting between the Belarusian parliamentarians and State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev was held. In his welcome speech, he said that the Duma had assessed the documents signed on 2 April by the two countries' presidents in a positive manner. Working groups have already been set up to tackle issues concerning the establishment of the Community's bodies.

Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetski today addressed a State Duma plenary session.

Also planned are meetings between the Belarusian parliamentarians and Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov.

Belarus: Media Write to Lukashenka Over Harassment, Pressure

LD0904204296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2037 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — The Confederation of Journalists' Unions (CJU) has sent an open letter to Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, saying that media are harassed in Belarus.

The letter expresses regret over facts of infringement on freedom of speech and rights of journalists and sacking of media leaders in contravention of judicial norms and charters of editorial boards.

While acknowledging that "certain steps have been recently made in Belarus to normalise the relations of authorities with mass media," the letter says "the pressure on media organs is being continued."

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The letter cites evidence of the CJU that "journalists of many editions, television and radio companies are feeling occupational discomfort, are working with apprehension or even in the atmosphere of fear," and this is creating "elements of tension in the public situation."

The letter, signed by CJU President Eduard Sagalayev, hails the signing of the Russian-Belarusian integration accord.

However, the letter warns, well-being and stability are difficult to achieve "if dialogue with journalists is carried out in the language of ultimatums or they are harshly shown the door without as much as to reasonably explain to them the claims."

Sagalayev called on Lukashenka to hold a meeting with media which would put the Belarusian authorities on better terms with the press.

Moldova

Moldova: Snegur, Dniester Leader View Implementation of Agreements

AU0904142796 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2158 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 8/4/1996 (BASA-press) — President Mircea Snegur today traveled to Tiraspol where he met with Igor Smirnov, leader of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

In the context of the meeting scheduled for 24 April, they addressed problems of political and economic character, according to a presidential press release. They also examined the common activity of Moldovan and Dniester law bodies in Tighina (Bender).

According to the agreement signed by Snegur and Yeltsin in July 1992, the law order in Tighina is enforced by Moldovan police and Dniester militia. Dniester political forces have repeatedly demanded Moldovan police's withdrawal from Tighina. Similar demands have been made by Dniester representatives in the Joint Control Commission.

According to the release, during the meeting Snegur made a plea for the Ilascu group's pardoning. Two months ago Iurie Rosca, chairman of the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova, expressed his bewilderment over President Snegur's failure to raise the Ilascu group matter at the meeting with Smirnov. In a letter addressed to President Snegur and Speaker Lucinschi, Rosca said then that "I have heard no word about the four political prisoners Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lescu, Tudor Petrov-Popa, and Andrei Ivantoc, Moldovan citizens despotically jailed by the secessionist regime in Tiraspol."

The release also said that Snegur and Smirnov exchanged opinions on the political and social-economic situation in Moldova and Dniester.

The two confirmed the date of their official meeting and "attachment to the earlier reached agreements."

On 11 March the Moldovan and Dniester delegations signed a range of documents on the main provisions for the special status of the Dniester region as well as agreements on customs activity, chambers of commerce and industry, and standardization.

Moldova: Speaker Lucinschi Interviewed on Domestic, CIS Events

AU0904133696 Chisinau INFOTAG in English GMT 2050 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, April 8 (INFOTAG) — The decision of the Constitutional Court, which established the non-constitutionality of Snegur's decree on the defense minister dismissal, has brought calm back to the society, Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi stated in his interview with the Independent Russian Television (NTV).

"The mechanism created after the Constitution adoption allows to solve even more complicated problems," he said.

The speaker sees no threat of a possible rescheduling of the presidential elections for an earlier date, and has informed that the presidential election law will be adopted by the forum in near days or weeks.

Commenting on the agreements signed recently between Russia and Belarus, and between these two states, Kazakhstan and Kyrgizstan, Petru Lucinschi said these steps "being connected with certain political moments, reflect the trends currently existing in these countries."

"On the other hand, these processes are advantageous for us, because we need a clarity of situation in these states and stability on the former Soviet territory."

"Moldova is interested to deepen bilateral and multilateral relations with CIS states, with the West, and the rest of the world — on the basis of mutual benefit and Moldova's interests," Lucinschi said. He let understand that he does not welcome the creation of any supranational structures in the CIS framework.

Answering a question on the consequences of a possible communist victory in Russia, Lucinschi replied he does not rule out that the new leadership in Moscow may seek to undertake some radical changes. However, he expressed confidence that Russia, as a member of many international organizations, will respects its own

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commitments to other states, including Moldova. "We shall respect the choice of the Russian electorate, and will continue our relationship with the people Russians will elect — in conformity with international law," Lucinschi said.

Moldova: Sangheli Rejects Snegur Ultimatum on New Defense Minister

AU0904142096 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2158 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 8/4/1996 (BASA-press) — Premier Andrei Sangheli gave a negative answer today to President Snegur's 6 April 6 demand to make suggestions until 8 April "referring to the dismissal of Mr. Creanga as defense minister and nominate another person for the post."

"Even though the Constitutional Court ruling has come into force at the moment of its adoption, you, Mr. President, make an ultimatum about Mr. Creanga's dismissal and the proposition of a new candidate for this post, actually ignoring the ruling of the superior authority of constitutional jurisdiction," Premier Sangheli said in his reply.

"The main reasons you refer to in your letter and the decree of 15 March are the offenses of financial character and diversion of state assets ascertained by law organs within the ranks of the National Army. The government has pronounced and is pronouncing itself for a thorough investigation into these cases. We wish to apprise you that the government is ready to find, together with the presidency and Parliament, a compromise about the reshuffling in the defense ministry, but this presupposes consultations, including with the majority faction, as well as a strict respect for the law," noted the premier in his letter.

Majority parliamentary factions think the president and premier should agree upon a defense minister nominee.

Valentin Krylov of the Socialist Unity, chairman of the parliamentary subcommission for defense problems, told BASA that "anyway, it makes no sense for the premier to insist upon General Creanga's tenure of the office."

"Another thing is that Snegur's reason for Creanga's dismissal, that of corruption, is ludicrous, since there have been violations in all the ministries and there are documents," said Krylov.

He said though Parliament controls how ministries comply with the Constitution, it has no resolution power in the problem of ministerial staff.

"Unfortunately, President Snegur made a scapegoat of the defense minister, but Creanga should not be identified with the National Army," concluded Krylov, saying "perhaps the time for a civilian defense minister has come."

Tudor Olaru of the PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova], parliamentary secretary, told BASA that the current legislation does not allow Snegur to dismiss only one minister. Olaru thinks that the future president, no matter who he is, will have to petition the Constitutional Court for alterations to the Constitution, which would permit the president to nominate the prime minister.

"Only then will the problem of the premier's oath to the president be considered," said Olaru, referring to the fact that the current cabinet members did not administer oaths to the president.

Article 98(4) stipulates that "the government exercises its duties from the day of oath administered by its members to the president of Moldova."

Earlier, cabinet members said they did not administer oaths to the president because the cabinet was formed before the Constitution was passed.

Moldova: Prime Minister Ready To Compromise With Snegur

LD0904164396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1000 GMT 9 Apr 96

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli has sent a message to President Mircea Snegur, in which he expressed readiness for a compromise in a conflict situation, that emerged after the removal from his post of Defence Minister Pavel Creanga. He stressed in the message, however, that the first thing to do for President Snegur was to comply with the resolution of the Constitutional Court, which declared the presidential decree to be null and void and demanded that Pavel Creanga should be restored on his post.

Only after that it will be possible to start consultations with the parliamentary majority about the candidature of a new defence minister, in accordance with the law, Sangheli believes.

Despite the resolution, adopted by the Constitutional Court, the disgraced general did not resume the discharging of his duties. Speaking in an Itar-Tass interview, he explained that Acting Defence Minister Tudor Dabidzha, appointed by the President, did not let him

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enter the premises of the ministry. According to Creanga, he is not clinging to the post of defence minister and is ready to resign, but with honour and not as a victim of political intrigues.

Viktor Zhosu, adviser to the Moldavian President, told Tass that until a new defence minister was appointed, the armed forces of the republic were under the command of President Snegur himself, who is at the same time their Commander-In-Chief. According to Zhosu, Pavel Creanga is not capable of discharging the duties of defence minister, because he did not take measures for preventing the plundering of state property and the squandering of budget resources at his ministry.

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Armenia

Armenia: Armenia Submits Document to NATO's Partnership for Peace

NC0904201396 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The document on Armenia's representation in the Partnership For Peace program was submitted to NATO today at NATO headquarters in Brussels. An Armenian Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zuloyan was received by Paul Moltke, NATO deputy secretary general for political affairs.

The Armenian deputy foreign minister familiarized Paul Moltke with the document on Armenia's representation and referred to Armenia's participation in the military-political agreements, disarmament issues, and so on. It was noted that cooperation with NATO in military-political, scientific, extraordinary situations, and civil defense spheres is envisaged.

In welcoming Armenia's cooperation with NATO, Paul Moltke spoke about the work being carried out within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program and about the process of enlisting the newly independent European states in the aforesaid program.

Armenia: Russian Envoy Kazimirov Visits Yerevan, Stepanakert

NC0904144296 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0805 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 04/09/96 — Co-chairman of OSCE Minsk group Vladimir Kazimirov arrived in Yerevan yesterday. He planned to leave for Stepanakert this morning, to meet the leaders of RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh]. He will then come back to Yerevan and meet Armenian leaders and diplomats on 10 April.

Press service of ROA [Republic of Armenia] Foreign Ministry reported that this is a regular working visit, held within the framework of "shuttle" policy of Russian Foreign Ministry.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Rules Out Independence for Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0904190796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Geydar Aliyev ruled out the possibility of granting Nagorno-Karabakh the status of an independent state.

"We cannot make concessions that would harm our national interests and do not fit international law," he said during his meeting in Baku with Vladimir Kazimirov, co-chairman of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Minsk group and Russian special envoy.

Aliyev confirmed, however, that Azerbaijan is continuously prepared to compromise in resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

"We have been saying that we are prepared to grant Nagorno-Karabakh the broadest possible autonomy. Is this not a compromise?" he said.

According to Aliyev, this position of Baku is shared by Russian President Boris Yeltsin who said at a news conference following the January 19 CIS summit in Moscow that the status of an autonomous republic is the limit of autonomy in Russia, too.

Aliyev sees the Chechnya events as a confirmation of the fact that Moscow is "not prepared" to grant independence to that republic. "No country in the world will agree to this kind of precedent," he emphasized.

Aliyev said that Baku would compromise on numerous issues, in particular in resolving the problem of Lachin (a town outside Nagorno-Karabakh borders that was captured by Armenian troops to secure a link between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh). He did not elaborate.

Baku will not, however, agree to a settlement which would do significant harm to Azerbaijani interests, he insisted.

Aliyev disagreed with the view taken by the OSCE Minsk group that the blame for the conflict should be shared by both sides. This approach is erroneous, he said.

On the other hand, Aliyev declared that he is prepared to discuss ways to make the Armenian-Azerbaijani talks more fruitful. He said that Baku wants the negotiating process to make progress.

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For his part, Kazimirov regretted that the talks failed to produce tangible results even though nearly two years have passed since a truce was arranged.

"No progress towards signing a political agreement has been made," he stated.

International mediators have for six months been trying in vain to bring the positions of the parties in the conflict closer together but "the parties are intransigent," he complained. In particular, the Moscow round of Armenian-Azerbaijani talks has brought no results to speak of, Kazimirov believed.

Kazimirov added that the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk group sent an appeal to the acting chairman of that organization and the organization as a whole, expressing concern over the impasse in the Karabakh talks. In particular, the message said that the sides are not prepared for a constructive dialog or search for compromises.

Kazimirov asked Aliyev to "analyze the negotiating process and take steps to make it more promising." Kazimirov expressed the hope that Aliyev will give new instructions to the Baku negotiators in the Armenian-Azerbaijani talks in the framework of the OSCE Minsk group.

Kazimirov said he would ask the Armenian leaders to do the same when he visits Baku.

Aliyev left for Pakistan Tuesday where he will stay three days on an official visit.

"This visit will give a new impetus to our bilateral links," he said in the Baku airport before the take off.

Most of the agreements the two countries are to sign will be economic, a diplomatic source in Baku told Interfax. They will cover avoidance of dual taxation, cooperation of central banks, cooperation in the fields of science and technology, culture, tourism, sport and information exchange.

The two sides will sign protocols on cooperation between the two foreign ministers, in particular of consular services.

A joint communique on the visit is also expected to be signed.

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Comments Before Departure to Pakistan

NC0904200096 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev left today for an official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari.

In explaining the aim of his visit to reporters at Bina airport, our head of state said: Very good friendly relations exist between Pakistan and Azerbaijan [words indistinct]. Hence, it was no coincidence that Pakistan was one of the first states to recognize Azerbaijan soon after the declaration of independence. Very good relations were established between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in subsequent years. As you know, during my participation in the meetings of international organizations held in foreign countries I have met and held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Pakistani president paid an official visit to Azerbaijan and its foreign minister paid two visits here. They all invited me to visit Pakistan. I have accepted that invitation [words indistinct], because Pakistan is a major power in Asia.

We have the same religion and our traditions are very similar. The furthering of ties is very beneficial for us and Pakistan. In view of this, I have accepted the invitation. I hope that our talks there will be very useful. Agreements on interstate relations, trade, taxation, investments, and tourism will be signed during the visit. We will also discuss ways to bring our positions' closer as regards world and regional politics. Pakistan resolutely defends our just cause in connection with Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. It is obvious that this issue will also be addressed during the talks. [end recording]

Chairman of the National Assembly Rasul Guliyev, Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, head of the presidential executive staff Ramiz Mehtiyev, and other officials saw President Geydar Aliyev off at Bina airport.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze Addresses Commemoration; Group Arrested

LD0904171496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1154 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 9 (Interfax) — A meeting was held in front of the government building in Tbilisi Tuesday to commemorate those killed when a peace demonstration was dispersed by Soviet troops on April 9, 1989.

Addressing the meeting, President Eduard Shevardnadze described that day as historic, because, besides an anniversary of the Tbilisi tragedy, this day marks the Day of Georgia's independence, proclaimed in 1991.

He said that the events on April 9, 1989, "gave a push to the restoration of the state system of Georgia which

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is an independent and democratic country despite all difficulties."

Shortly after the tragedy, Shevardnadze continued, Boris Yeltsin, then a deputy of the Soviet parliament, arrived in Tbilisi to express his condolences.

The tragedy might have been avoided "if there had not been so many cowards and provocateurs in the Georgian leadership," he said.

Representatives of the Georgian opposition told Interfax that an hour before the authorized meeting began, the police had not allowed about 100 members of the opposition party Zviad (named after Georgia's ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia) to join the meeting, while party leader Leyla Tsomaya had been arrested.

At 4 a.m. Tuesday (at the same hour seven years ago that Soviet troops dispersed the original protest), representatives of the opposition parties held a meeting near the government building. The organizers estimate the meeting was attended by about 200 people.

An Interfax correspondent reports that at dawn the police made the demonstrators leave the square in front of the government building. More than 20 people were detained.

According to official statistics, during the troops' actions against the demonstrators on April 9, 1989, 21 people, including 16 women, were killed, and more than a thousand people fell victim to a gas attack. The participants in the meeting demanded that Georgia secede the Soviet Union.

Georgia: Parliament To Call For Russian Withdrawal

LD0904204996 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] If the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Abkhaz conflict is not changed, the Georgian parliament will demand their withdrawal in the near future. This was stated today by Zurab Zhvania, speaker of the Georgian parliament. I remind you that the mandate consists of maintaining peace in the region. Russian servicemen are now operating only in Galskiy District of Abkhazia.

Meanwhile a group of Russian deputies arrived in the republic today.

[Correspondent Inza Tushba] Meetings are planned with Vladislav Ardzhinba, president of the republic of Abkhazia, with parliament speaker Sokrat Jinjolia, and with representatives of various public organizations and movements. International telephone communications have been cut off for the fifth day. The disconnection of ties with the external world via telephone channels has now been added to the continuing economic blockade and the closure of the land, sea, and air borders..

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said: Who will protest against the Russian defense minister's intention to hand over naval vessels to Georgia? This will weaken Russia, whereas Georgia has no need for our naval vessels. Shevardnadze has shed the blood not only of Georgia and Abkhazia. We are demanding that Georgia extradite Shevardnadze so that we can try him for crimes against Russia.

Inza Tushba, specially for Ekho Moskvy radio news service.

Georgia: Abkhaz Refugees Call For Withdrawal of Russian Troops

LD0804184096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 8 (Interfax) — A congress of Abkhazian refugees which ended in Tbilisi on April 8 demanded that Russian peacekeeping troops be withdrawn from Abkhazia, that the Georgian separatist republic be declared occupied by Russia, and that military units be recruited from among the refugees.

A resolution passed by the congress demands that the Georgian government engage in no talks on settlement in Abkhazia without the refugees being represented there.

Zurab Zhvaniya, chairman of the Georgian parliament, told the congress that parliament will take the resolution into consideration when it discusses the Abkhazian issue at its special session scheduled for April 10.

Zhvaniya also tried to get across the idea that the conflict cannot be resolved without Russia. He said that parliament is very likely to declare that if the mandate of the peacekeeping troops in Abkhazia is not changed as Georgia demands, the country will raise the issue of withdrawing the Russian peacekeeping force from Abkhazia.

Zhvaniya said that parliament is prepared to ratify the agreement on Russian military bases in Georgia in exchange for a settlement of the Abkhazian conflict on Georgia's conditions.

If peaceful political tools do not work, force will have to be used, he said.

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Georgia: Russian Duma Team Arrives in Sochi, Meets Abkhaz Leaders

LD0904215296 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1955 GMT 9 Apr 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast; R. Bzhaniya video report from Sochi]

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Russian State Duma that arrived in Sochi airport today intends to acquaint itself with the conditions in which Russian border guards do their service and the fulfillment of the mandate obligations by the peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia.

In the afternoon the guests from Moscow met with Vladislav Ardzhinba, the president of Abkhazia, the parliament's speaker, and the republic's prime minister.

During the visit, which is to last three days, the State Duma deputies also intend to meet their Abkhaz colleagues, the republic's Russian-speaking population and servicemen in the Russian troops subunits deployed in Abkhazia.

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Estonia

Estonia: Vahi Downplays Russian Memorandum on Sale of Rubles

LD0904175596 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in 1545 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the past few days, relations between Estonia and Russia have again become the focus of mass media attention in Estonia. The reason for this is the memorandum on the sale of rubles [collected in Estonia during the 1992 monetary reform and subsequently sold rather than returned to Russia as per agreement] handed over to Prime Minister Tiit Vahi by the Russian Embassy in Tallinn a week ago. This issue was also touched upon at today's Estonian Government news conference.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] The prime minister also said that he sees no domestic policy problem for Estonia in this demand by Russia. He thinks that the position of Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas as to what to decide next will fully coincide with his own views. Concerning the Russian memorandum, Tiit Vahi noted that his role had been only to accept it passively and hand it over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to the EESTI PAEVALEHT newspaper, this document from the Russian side sees the sale of rubles as having resulted in a loss for Russia. That is why the demand has been made to compensate for the rubles in dollars, according to the exchange rate of 1992. According to the information available, over 2 billion rubles were collected at the time of the monetary reform, and under the exchange rate then in effect, this would amount to over $17 million.

Tiit Vahi also said that the significance of the memorandum must not be overemphasized. Russia first claimed compensation for the rubles in an official note that was handed over to the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994.

Estonia: Foreign Ministry Responds to Primakov Statement on NATO

WS0904090296 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 8, BNS — Estonia is not prepared to join only NATO's political structures, as suggested by Russia, but seeks membership of the alliance's military structures as well, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Tallinn told BNS.

He was commenting on Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov's statement that Russia was ready to accept NATO's eastward expansion if the alliance's new members did not join its military structures.

Primakov's statement evidences the flexibility of Russia's policy vis-a-vis the Atlantic alliance, but it should be approached with caution, Peeter Lorents, chairman of the parliamentary Defense Committee, told BNS.

In Lorents' words, NATO's present attitude toward Estonia is favorable. "Russia's pressure is not to be taken very seriously for the time being," he stated.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said all Russia's attempts to torpedo the enlargement of the western military alliance only strengthened the Baltic states' desire to join NATO. Russia's opposition to NATO expansion shows that Moscow has not given up the idea of getting back the Baltics and the Kremlin realizes this would be very difficult after the three accede to the alliance.

The Baltic states will not abandon their bid for NATO membership when threatened, but they might do it when changes in Russia convince them they are under no threat from that direction.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana has in the past few weeks more than once declared that Russia's stance would not prevent the alliance from going ahead with its enlargement plans.

"As a small state, we must take into account that the games of the great powers are a sensitive area and Estonia should take time out for a while," the Defense Committee chairman said.

Estonia: Russia Refuses Entry Visa to Riigikogu Official Over Chechnya

LD1004090696 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0800 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has refused to issue an entry visa to Arvo Junti, deputy speaker of the Riigikogu, who was among the 64 members of the Riigikogu who signed a statement supporting Chechnya at the beginning of March, the SONUMILEHT newspaper reported on 10 April.

A press representative of the Russian Embassy in Tallinn refused to comment on refusing the visa.

Junti and Peeter Lorents, chairman of the State Defense Commission of the Riigikogu, were to take part in a meeting of one of the committees of the North Atlantic Assembly from 11 to 13 April.

Junti told SONUMILEHT that, clearly, he was refused a visa because of the condemning attitude toward the bloodshed in Chechnya.

Junti said that the fact that a member of parliament of a neighboring state is refused an entry visa could be

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regarded as a precedent in relations between the two states.

Peeter Lorents was issued a visa, however, he did not sign the statement supporting Chechnya.

Estonia: Riigikogu Official Says CE Membership Requirements Fulfilled

LD0604094796 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1730 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunne Kelam, Riigikogu deputy speaker and member of Estonian Council of Europe delegation, said today that the Council of Europe [CE] no longer needs to come and check up on Estonia since Estonia has fulfilled all the conditions of membership entry.

According to Kelam, who returned from Paris on 4 April, Estonia had but one obligation: to ratify the European Convention of Human Rights, which the Riigikogu recently did.

[begin Kelam recording] On the subject of fulfilling obligations, we have fulfilled them. [passage omitted] Since the initial Council of Europe document drew attention to the fact that there is a continued need to check up on Estonia, we definitely cannot agree to this. [end recording]

According to Kelam, the initial report on Estonia is not factually correct.

[begin Kelam recording] We have now agreed that the initial report will not be published, and that the Estonian Government — I have in mind the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — will formulate its positions and clarifications, because we are talking about many facts presented incorrectly. There are certain emotional evaluations, and even a lack of coordination, for example, with the positions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Estonia: Prime Minister Views Fishing Dispute With Latvia

LD0804182696 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1730 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A solution to the sea border dispute between Estonia and Latvia could be found as early as this week, Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said in the Riigikogu today.

The Estonian side has submitted to Latvia several proposals for resolving the conflict but Latvia has not responded to them. Vahi hopes to discuss the situation with his Latvian counterpart in Vilnius at the end of this week.

[begin Vahi recording] A few weeks ago, the Estonian side again submitted a written agreement, comprising four points, both on the border and on fishing rights. The Latvian side did not accept this proposal and even did not give a direct reply to it.

Currently, our next proposal is that the Estonian sea border, based on the 1993 Estonian law, should be accepted. But at the same time, we would accept in principle the right of the Latvian side to fish within our territory but this would only take place if the Latvian side applies for a permission for this and complies with the conditions set by us. [end recording]

The prime minister is planning to discuss the issue with the Latvian side during the upcoming meetings within the Baltic Assembly framework.

[begin Vahi recording] Surely, new rounds of talks at the level of prime ministers would be expedient. As early as at the end of this week there will be such an opportunity in Vilnius. [end recording]

Latvia

Latvia: President of European Parliament Arrives for 2-Day Visit

LD1004101196 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0901 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Klaus Haensch, president of the European Parliament [EP], an EP deputy, and Niels Sindal, chairman of the EP delegation for relations with the Baltic states, have arrived in Latvia on a two-day visit.

The visitors will meet the state president, the prime minister, the chairman of the Saeima [parliament], and deputies who are members of the Saeima Foreign Affairs Commission and the Commission on European Affairs.

Latvia: Riga Supports Creation of Baltic Economic Community

LD0804184996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, April 8 (Interfax) — Latvian Prime Minister Andris Skele at a meeting of Baltic heads of government in Vilnius April 15 intends to propose that the three countries set up a common economic space, his aide Jurgis Liepnieks told Interfax Monday.

Skele said last week that the existence of a "sea border dispute between the Baltic states shows the need to negotiate the setting up of a common economic space in the Baltics."

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The differences over sea borders between Latvia and Lithuania and Latvia and Estonia are caused by economic factors. The Baltic offshore area claimed by both Latvia and Lithuania is believed to be rich in oil.

The Latvian government signed an agreement on developing that area with Amoco and Opab, a U.S. and a Swedish oil companies.

The Gulf of Riga areas claimed by Estonia and Latvia are rich in fish. Estonia unilaterally established in 1993 a sea border which Riga does not recognize. Starting with the spring of 1994 Estonian border guards have detained numerous Latvian fishing boats in the waters claimed by Estonia.

Latvia: Foreign Minister Views Fishing Dispute With Estonia

LD0804202796 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1301 GMT 8 Apr 96

[Interview with Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs by correspondent Sallija Benfelde; place unknown — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Benfelde] Is there any chance to solve the Latvian-Estonian maritime border issue?

[Birkavs] As far as Estonia is concerned, I would simply like to stress that this problem should not be dramatized, because at the moment there are still countries in the EU that have border disputes and that have disputes over fishing. And from time to time fishing problems arise everywhere in the world. However, the government's action at the moment is very clear and consistent. And the first point of consistency is to defend the rights of our fishermen to fish in their traditional fishing areas. That is point one, as former Prime Minister Godmanis used to say. However, there will be no war of course, and there is no war. Our naval forces have been instructed to escort ships not for the purpose of them attacking the Estonians, but rather so that our ships, for whom navigation is not always a strong side, do not accidentally stray into Estonian waters. On the other hand, the Estonians can travel safely because our side is open and the regulations adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 2 April should in no case be considered as a unilateral demarcation of the border. We acted precisely in accordance with terms of the 1982 maritime convention.

It should be said, unfortunately, that directly answering your question — how are the chances to solve the conflict or dispute — I can reply that chances are great but it will require a lot of time.

[Benfelde] That is a purely diplomatic answer, of course. And one would not probably expect anything else from a foreign minister. However, what are — really, what are the chances to agree with the Estonian government? You know that opinions have appeared in our media — very unsatisfied voices — that in fact that is inability to work together between, let us say, the Foreign Ministry and individual officials and so on. I also know that this situation in reality is [words indistinct]?

[Birkavs] That is interesting in general that one reproaches the government for the inability to work together, rather than defends the position of the government which in its turn defends the interests of the fishermen and the state interests. The thing is not whether we are able to work together or not, the thing is that in fact we have the right and the duty to determine precisely the maritime border so that it would correspond to the the Latvian state interests. That is the first priority that stands above all the others.

And then follows a second priority — that is in the context of relations between Latvia and Lithuania.

[Benfelde, interrupting] Estonia in this case.

[Birkavs] Baltic, yes, but also Lithuania — in the context of relations between Latvia and Estonia and exactly the same in the case of Latvia and Lithuania — Latvia's interests stand above all, and not the interest of Baltic unity, that is subordinated. And it is in this context that we have to try to find a joint stance. Former Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar has agreed on this recently and we found very simple solutions which are in fact connected to the observance of fishing regulations in the Gulf of Riga and not in the Gulf of the Livonians, as the Estonians refer to it, and to joint fishing. And after that one can slowly, without haste, try to solve where precisely the border runs — use mediators and international courts. But the first condition is — let us allow fishermen, Estonian fishermen and Latvian fishermen, to do the job of their ancestors.

[Benfelde] [Words indistinct] will that be possible, yes or no?

[Birkavs] Yes.

[Benfelde] Good. And then I have another question — concerning a statement made on 28 March by former British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Although this person is no longer a state official, however, however, in my opinion, one can very clearly see in this statement the conviction that has been expressed earlier that NATO is one thing and, let us say, NATO's eastern border could be Poland; one the other hand, Nordic countries could take the responsibility for the Baltic

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states and all and the full stop. How can you comment on this?

[Birkavs] Well, as far as his passion is concerned, Douglas Hurd together with the previous post of foreign secretary is also an author of many detective stories. And this is one such plots for a detective story which our journalists have rather nicely used, immediately putting into newspapers headlines: Do not allow the Baltics to join NATO. I have his speech in front of me and it does not exactly say this. However, it is completely clear at the same time that concern expressed by Hurd about the security arrangements for the Baltic states is very well founded because together with this speech I have just read during the Easter a fundamental study by (?Ran) Corporation: the Baltic states and NATO enlargement. And it clearly describes what are the (?possibilities), what are obstacles or what are problems why it is difficult to admit the Baltic states to NATO. It clearly describes what the Baltic states should do to strengthen their security and there is also the attempt to explain how arrangements for Baltic security will look like if it is in some relative way guaranteed by Sweden or Finland which are not members of NATO.

In fact, Hurd has tried to answer the question that I put forward to Christopher in Prague — all is clear, NATO will be enlarged and there will be no new dividing lines, but what will happen to us who will not be admitted in the first round, and who at the end of the day... [pauses] — how at the end of the day to guarantee security to the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian peoples? And no one answered this question and Hurd and the study by (?Ran) Corporation have some foundation — they are looking for an answer to that — how to do this.

I am of course of a negative opinion of any stance aimed at pushing back the Baltic states from the process of NATO enlargement, but we ourselves must do very much so that one would not be able to push us back objectively, because at the moment we are still doing very little.

Latvia: Ministry Denies Plans To Send Warships To Guard Sea Border

WS1004090196 Tallinn BNS in English 2014 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 9, BNS — The Latvian Foreign Ministry has announced Riga is not going to send warships to guard the provisional sea border demarked by the Latvian government in the Gulf of Riga.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Monday told the media that the information about Latvia sending its ships to patrol the border as of Apr. 15 was not correct.

Estonian Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk, who heads the Estonian delegation at sea border talks with Latvia, told BNS Tuesday he was unable to relate this announcement to a Latvian government ruling ordering the naval forces to keep watch on the disputed part of the gulf and make sure that no conflict situations arise and fishing and other regulations are observed.

"This statement contradicts the documents we have received," he said.

Malk earlier told BNS that Latvia's decision to order the navy to guard the provisional maritime border, which lies at a distance of only four nautical miles from the Estonian coast, was going to complicate bilateral negotiations.

Lithuania

Lithuania: European Parliament Chairman Meets Brazauskas

LD0904210596 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chairman of the European Parliament, Mr. Klaus Haensh, and a delegation arrived in Vilnius for a two-day visit this Tuesday. The European Parliament chairman met with President Algirdas Brazauskas, Ambassadors of European Union countries resident in Vilnius, and Parliamentary Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas.

Meeting with President Brazauskas, Mr. Haensh said Lithuania is making concrete actions for membership in the European Union. According to the president, during their talks much was discussed about Lithuania's relations with neighboring countries, including Latvia and Estonia. Mr. Brazauskas said that in speaking about common Baltic preparations for joining the EU, the fact that some of Lithuania's partners had said that they would join earlier than the others was not taken very well.

At the meeting with Mr. Haensh, the president once again stated Lithuania's intentions to join NATO.

Mr. Haensh told journalists that he does not think that Lithuania's cooperation with the EU should be hindered by the fact that the parliament has not yet ratified the association treaty.

The main reason for Mr. Haensh's visit is to verify that Lithuania is ready to join the EU, said Ceslovas Jursenas after his meeting with Mr. Haensh. Mr. Haensh was primarily interested in Lithuania's ratification of the EU association treaty and (?formalizing) Lithuania's laws to those of the EU. Mr. Haensh says there is yet much to be done by Lithuania to meet all European Union's requirements.

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